
The



Buzz

The Education Hub

For Practical Beekeeping

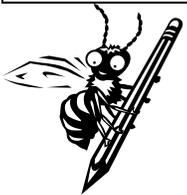
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Editor's Notes

Nathanael J. Beach



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.

This month we are handing out the newsletters at the meeting and also posting it in PDF file on the web site: aikenbeekeepers.org. At this (May) meeting we will be primarily focusing on honey extraction and summer management, but we will also be reserving a lot of time to discussing alternative methods of publishing the newsletter and notifying members of meetings and special activities.

I've published some great public service opportunities in the newsletter. These opportunities are great way to add credits towards the next Master Beekeepers Level, but they also help publicize our club and beekeeping in general.

Clearwater Elementary Needs Volunteer Speakers

Aiken Beekeepers Assoc.

The Clearwater Elementary School's Science day will be on June 3rd from 8:00-10:40. There will be three 35 or 40 minutes classes scheduled for the day with a break between. Mrs Wade said most presenters get here about 7:50 and 8:00 to set up and the first class would be at 8:15. This will be for the third graders. There are 22 or 23 in each of the three classes. If your group has two people who could present, then the other presenter would be handling the fourth grade classes. Let me give you Ann's home and cell number and mine as well. She will be the first point of contact. We know this is short notice. Many of our presenters are getting shifted around at S.R.S. and were unable to commit.

Ann Wade - Cell -803-507-2691 Home-803-593-9644

Cathy Burbury - Cell 803-646-0142 Home-803-652-3267

- Aiken County Public Schools



My First Cut Out... w/o a Bee Vac!

Staci Siler

It all started with a conversation with an owner of a shed. 'My son tried to remove the colony by taking off a few pieces of siding. It wasn't long before the bees started stinging him quite badly. The colony also stung a few neighbors and was quite aggressive for two days.' When I showed up at her home, I went to the shed the bees were located in back of. On the side of the shed, I saw four cans of starter fluid... all empty... 'Please tell me her son didn't do what I think he did.', I prayed but found that prayer unanswered when rounding the corner to see a burned out mess. She had neglected to mention that part... (suggestion # 1) I pulled off some comb (suggestion # 2) hoping that there might be sign *eggs or young larvae* of a queen on the interior of some of the comb which had been 'sheltered' from the violence but saw none. I kept my eyes open for - best case scenario - emergency queen cells or - worse case scenario - multiple eggs on the sides of cells (signs of laying workers). I knew some of the pitfalls of trying to re-queen if laying workers were in the hive based upon books I had read and upon advice from experienced beekeepers but sighted neither emergency queen cells or multiple eggs in cells. So, with little to no hope of obtaining such a strong gene line, I pulled out my smoker and started in. Curious kids came and watched. (suggestion # 3). The bees had been on their own, stressed, and queenless for about a week prior to my arrival and hive beetles were out in force with larvae penetrating every portion of the hive. As the middle of the comb was burned out, I started on the top, figuring that way I wouldn't have to worry about bees falling on my head as I cleaned out the bottom. (suggestion # 4) I planned on purchasing a bee vac May 12th. As I didn't have it yet, I cut out comb and shook it over the new hive. When I ran out of bee-covered comb, I used my hands. (suggestion # 5) After a while, I was done transferring bees from the shed wall to the hive (setting about 100 aside in alcohol for some feral colony studies). Hive beetles transferred residence with the bees into the new hive which made me quite reluctant to take the bees to my home to start a new colony with transferred brood from my hives. The hives at my home were my babies. I don't care how cute a critter is.. If it has something, I DON'T want it visiting my house. I am not fond of unexpected house pests. I used Check-Mite+ and called some people interested in hives to see if they wanted the bees.

Around this time, the owner of the home came to see the progress made so I explained to her how important scraping the remaining honeycomb out was. Passing scout bees from future swarms would be attracted to the scent and move into the area just cleansed were I not to do so. So, after scraping the wall out, I sealed the opening with tar paper and pieced the siding back on (suggestion # 6). It was important to me to leave the place better than I found it, if for nothing more than ensuring a good rapport between the beekeeping clubs and the public. After nailing the siding on the shed (suggestion # 7), I painted the siding and, although the wall was nothing much to look at, I thought it looked pretty good compared to what it looked like when I arrived.

Suggestions:

1. Understand prior to going that for the majority of removals, the owners will have attempted to remove the colony before they called you. They WILL NOT tell you of these things prior to your arrival. You will also find that most VERY well established colonies have only been there a few weeks... according to the owners.
2. Feral colonies do NOT have crimp wire foundation in their comb... DON'T forget and hold the comb (full of bees) horizontal to get a better look...
3. Do not assume children will be supervised by their parents.. Also keep in mind that although faking a 'massive stinging incident' with you as the victim entertains you AND ensures the kids don't get too close, adults usually aren't amused.
4. Chasing migrating bees up an interior wall will set you back a bit on time.. Seal any holes above the colony first.
5. Although easy to forget, the fact that bees fly is what makes it easier to dump bees into a new hive from a vacuum canister than from cupped hands..
6. When taking siding off a shed, number the





Cooks Corner

Almond Honey Crunch

- Makes 7 servings -

Ingredients

- 1 cup slivered almonds
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 1 Tablespoon grated orange peel
- salt
- 2-1/2 cups corn flakes

Directions

Combine almonds, honey, butter, orange peel, and salt. Spread over flakes.

Pecan Thimbles

Ingredients:

CRUST:

- 3 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup margarine or butter
- 1 cup flour

Cut together and roll into 24 1-inch balls. Press each ball into a mini-muffin tin and shape to form a miniature pie crust.

FILLING:

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/4 cup Sue Bee Honey
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 tsp. margarine or butter, melted
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Combine ingredients and fill shells. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.





Women in the Outdoors (WITO) need volunteer speakers at the Edgefield National Wild Turkey Federation

We are going to hold a national event here in Edgefield in September to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Women in the Outdoors (WITO) program. The event is three days long and promotes women exploring new outdoor activities through scheduled seminars. We were wondering if someone in your club would be willing to host beekeeping seminars for the attendees? The seminars would take place on Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27. At most there would be three seminars each day – for a total of six seminars across both days. Food would be provided for the speaker(s) and it is possible that we also be able to pay for their gas.

The course description we have on the WITO brochures is: "Beekeeping is a hobby, art or perhaps profession for some. This course is designed to familiarize you with the basics to help you on your way to "begin" your new hobby." Here's a link to the event's website - http://www.womenintheoutdoors.org/wito/10th_an.html?SUBSITE=wito.

Contact Nathanael Beach if you are interested in helping out.

- National Wildlife Turkey Federation (Edgefield)

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