

Northern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

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Preview & Review

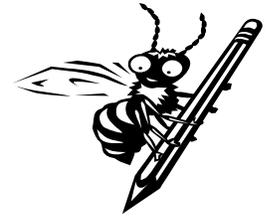
March should bring some more unsettled weather similar to what we have been having of late. Sometime during the first week in March, on the warmest day, take a brief investigative look in your hives. The bees are likely raising brood. You need to make an assessment about the adequacy of colony stores, and the need for pollen supplements and/or sugar syrup or fondant. Remember, if you feed them, this also stimulates more brood rearing. You will need to keep feeding them until there is nectar and pollen available. It is astonish-

ing how quickly a colony in the midst of an expansion can go through food! I have heard that more colonies starve to death in March than in any other month. So, take a look at your ladies. It would be a shame to get them through the winter only to lose them now.

The March NPBA club meeting will include some discussion of what we as beekeepers should be doing with our hives this month.

The open house on February 10th to register those interested in this year's beekeeping classes went

well. The club registered 19 new "units" (a unit may be one or more persons from the same family), and also half a dozen people from past classes auditing the course. The volume of information is difficult to absorb the first time taking the class, especially if you are new to beekeeping. Remember, anyone who has taken the class in the past may take it again at no charge if your club dues are paid. A big thank you for Karen and Mike King, Mike Wilson, Bob Duxbury, Joe Miller, and Ann Harman for all the help at the open house.



NPBA 2008 Meeting Schedule

Culpeper County Extension Building, 101 South West Street, Culpeper, VA

January 17	7:30-9:00 p.m.	August	No meeting
February 21	7:30-9:00 p.m.	September 18	7:30-9:00 p.m.
March 20	7:30-9:00 p.m.	October 16	7:30-9:00 p.m.
April 17	7:30-9:00 p.m.	November 20	7:30-9:00 p.m.
May 15	7:15-8:45 p.m.	December	No meeting
June 8	Picnic at Verdun 2:00-6:00 p.m.		
July	No meeting		

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Webmaster:
Mike Wilson

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Bees/Queens/Nucs For Sale

There are local people who will be selling honeybees. **Jim Fraser** of Highland Honey & Apiaries will have available for purchase nucs with three frames of drawn comb, one frame of started foundation, bees, and a laying, marked Italian queen. Jim's contact information:

Email: jfraser71@aol.com

Cell: 301.518.9678.

Our regional bee inspector, **Bob Wellemeyer**, will have 3 # packages for sale at \$57.00. Queens will be \$13.00 each. He also hopes to have three frames nucs with queen for \$65.00 about the same time as

the packages. They will be available mid-to-late March at his home in Castleton, VA. Bob will also have Minnesota Hygienic queens for sale for \$15.00 each from mid-April until September or later.

Bob's contact information:

Email: beeswax7@wildblue.net

Home Phone 540.937.2175

Cell 540.229.5359.

If you are considering buying a nuc, make sure the frame sizes the seller is using is the same as your brood chambers boxes.



Marked Queen

Source: MAAREC

Beekeeping Events in the Area

Jeff Pettis, the Research Leader at the USDA-ARS (Agriculture Research Service) Bee Research Laboratory is announcing an open house on June 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The open house will highlight honey bee research activities being conducted in the nation's capital by the USDA Agriculture Research Service. Visitors will learn about the research being conducted, colony collapse disorder, and molecular studies. In addition, there will be opportunities to observe colony inspections, queen

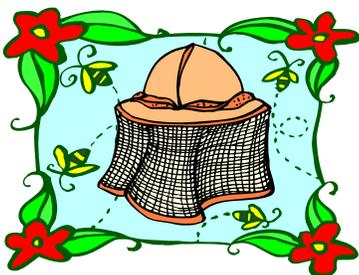
rearing, instrumental insemination of queens, a variety of beekeeping equipment, and how to identify bee diseases.



David Hackenberg will be presenting a forum at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) located in Charlottesville, VA. The title is "Where have the Bees Gone?". The presentation will take place in the PVCC Main Building

Auditorium at 7 p.m. on March 11th. Admission is free. Mr. Hackenberg is credited with discovering Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD. A veteran commercial beekeeper, Mr. Hackenberg lost nearly three quarters of his hives to CCD over a year ago. In addition to running his business, Hackenberg has made numerous public appearances, including testifying before Congress to raise public awareness of this issue. Hackenberg will talk about bees and other things that may be related to CCD and what is to be addressed.

Virginia State Beekeepers Association



The Virginia State Beekeepers Association (VSBA) will hold their next meeting on April 11-12, 2008, in Loudoun, VA. Invited speakers include **Nancy Ostiguy** from Penn State University, **Phil Craft** from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Apiary Inspection, and **Michael Palmer**, a commercial bee-

keeper and President of the Vermont Beekeepers Association. The meeting will be held at the 4H Fairgrounds at 17558 Dry Mill Road in Leesburg, VA.

For further information, the VSBA website is virginiabeekeepers.org.

What's Blooming this Month?

In the past, **Ann Harman** has kept beekeepers informed of the what is blooming each month by pointing out the different foliage honeybees prefer. She graciously gave her permission to continue this wonderful bit of information so as to assist the novices what to look for each month. As many of the new beekeepers are originally from other parts of the country, a wide array of trees and plants in the Northern Piedmont area are new to them.

What is blooming in March?

Trees: Willows, Maples, Alders.
Plants: some crocuses, skunk cabbages, domesticated Mediterranean heather (also called Mexican heather), and winter honeysuckle spice bush begin blooming some time in March. Dandelions, henbit, and chickweed will also begin showing.



**Dandelions: a sign
spring is here!**

Source: Northern Virginia Beginning Beekeepers Power Point on Floral Sources



Hives in Winter

Source: MAAREC

**Membership Dues are Past
Due!**

Dues are to pay for mailing the newsletter to its members, to extension services, and for meeting announcements in newspapers around the area. Please write a check for \$10.00 made to **NPBA** and mail to:

Lele Hankins
18182 Pine View Drive
Culpeper, VA 22701

Honey Recipe for the Month

Honey Baked Ham

1 Ham large enough for family

Baste

1/2 cup Orange Juice

1/4 cup Orange Blossom Honey

3 tbsp Worcestershire Sauce

1 tsp Garlic Powder

1 tsp Onion Powder

Directions

Place ham in a large roaster, cover, and bake according to di-

rections. Typically 1/2 hour per pound at 350 degrees or until the ham reaches an internal temperature of 175 degrees. Baste thoroughly, every 20 minutes with the Orange Juice/ Honey mixture. Other table grade honey may be substituted but it will not have the citrus flavor! Recipe from Thomas Honey Company. Website: www.thomashoney.com

