



# Northern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

Volume 31

Number 1

January 2010

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For New Beekeepers  
Advertise the Bee Course  
82 Years Ago  
Various Websites

### MEETING INFORMATION

#### NO MEETING IN JANUARY

**For bad winter weather -- if the schools are closed, meeting is canceled!**

**Don't be silly - if roads are bad, don't drive.  
Stay safe - your bees need you.**

### DATES FOR YOUR NEW CALENDAR

Now that you have hung up your new calendars, here are meeting dates.

February 18  
March 18  
April 15  
May 20  
June 6 or 13 (TBA) Picnic  
July, August NO meetings  
September 16  
October 21  
November 18  
December NO meeting

### HIVE WORKS FOR JANUARY

Checking stores during the winter will be important especially during the latter part, February in particular.

Read some good beekeeping books.

Got a head cold? Flu? Honey soothes sore throats and helps coughs.

Order equipment now! sometimes sales are on. Besides suppliers are not as busy as in Spring.

Is your bee bucket cleaned up yet? Do that and wash bee clothes.

Sit down and make plans for the coming Bee Season. Will you expand the number of hives?

Check beeyard for tree limbs, debris.

Check tilt of hive and make sure covers have not blown off. Don't worry about your bear fence yet - bears still asleep.

**2010 queen color - blue**

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A big thank you to all who have renewed their NPBA membership. Memberships were due January 1st. If you haven't already done so, please remember to send in your dues of \$10 (payable to NPBA). Mail to Lele Hankins, 18182 Pine View Drive, Culpeper, VA 22701.

The Registration Social for the Beekeeping Class is Sunday February 9, 2010, from 2 – 4pm. Each year, we ask NPBA members to attend the Registration Social to meet-and-greet new class participants. We also need members who can bring a dessert and/or snack. While we have a number of club members who have graciously volunteered to attend and bring a food item for the Social, we need more helpers! **If you can attend to welcome potential new beekeepers and/or bring food for the Social, please call Mike King 540-937-4792 or Deb Parker at 540-854-4883.**

For more information about the class or a class registration form, contact Mike King (540-937-4792 or kahu9@juno.com) or Ann Harman (540-364-4660 or ahworkerb@aol.com)

Don't forget to check your bee equipment – if you need to repair or replace, do it now before spring!

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

#### **Don't Worry, Be Happy!**

Whoa! December ended up being a month for snowballs. Don't worry about your hives being in the snow. If you find the entrance covered with snow and want to brush it off, you can do that. But if you don't the warmth from the colony will melt the snow at the entrance rather soon. Snow does act as an insulator and protection from winter winds.

If you see dead bees in the snow, don't worry about it. Some of them are the ones that died in the hive and the undertaker bees have been cleaning up. Some are bees that flew out, got cold and died. Remember normal death in a colony is about 50 to 100 bees per day.

Bees will fly out on a sunny, low-wind day in the 40s to take their cleansing flights. So if you see some bees flying while snow is on the ground, don't worry about that either.

### SO YOU WANT TO BE A BEEKEEPER...

Although the equipment catalogs for 2010 will not be available immediately (some in January, but some not until February or even March) you can still browse the 2009 catalogs.

January is a good time for that. You can think back, and look at your records, to see if there is something you needed and didn't have. Perhaps you want to try something new this year.

This is the time to order equipment. However, beekeepers are always behind schedule. At this time some suppliers may be having sales. They are able to fill orders immediately.

Order containers—it makes no difference if you have a lousy 2010 honey harvest. Containers keep; they don't go stale. The same for labels.

Billy Davis recommends the Thorne Rapid Feeder that fits over the inner cover hole. This feeder is available from the Thorne distributor in Canada, The Bee Works. You can see their catalog with the Rapid Feeder shown (cost \$7.50) at [www.beeworks.com](http://www.beeworks.com). Although many other places are on that website, go to Equipment and just go down the list until you see it.

Although there are many styles of feeders on the market, all seem to work fairly well with some drowning bees more than others. The ones that completely cover the top do block ventilation for large colonies.

A disposable beetle trap is on the market but it may not be in the Dadant catalog of 2009. It fits between the frames as the rigid beetle trap does. Check the Dadant 2010 catalog when it comes out.

Speaking of small hive beetles (SHB), your grease patties for tracheal mites should only be on from about October first to March—depending on weather in March. When weather turns warm and beetle larvae can migrate outside of the hive, traps go on and grease patties go off. Remember—during beetle season every time you enter your hives you break open the propolis prisons and then beetles multiply!

## NOTES FROM THE PAST

I was cleaning up some old files the other day when I came across a copy of some pages from an old beekeeping journal, *The Beekopers Item*, of April 1928. This journal is from San Antonio, Texas. So let's see what was going on in their beekeeping world 82 years ago.

There is a full-page article on the Caucasian bee written by a beekeeper in Alabama. Although this beekeeper kept Italian bees, he liked the gentle disposition of the Caucasians. But he objected to the inferior strains that some Caucasian breeders were selling. The writer also stated that if the Caucasians crossed with the black bee (the German black bee) the cross would not be like the gentle Caucasians.

Another full-page article was on the "History and Habits of the Caucasian Bee." This was contributed by a Caucasian queen breeder in Colorado. Of course he liked the Caucasians for a variety of reasons.

Some new inventions are mentioned. One is an extractor that holds forty-five frames at a time. Dadant has put wires into the foundation. Practices are changing, too. Beekeepers are starting to use more than one brood chamber to have stronger colonies for the honey flow. Honey is now being used in candies.

But how about this one: "Honey as an anti-freeze for auto radiators is quite largely used."

"The box hive has been outlawed in most states." (Box hives have no moveable frames.)

Today we worry about the effects of various chemicals used in beekeeping. However, be glad that we have moved away from the following: "Formaldehyde as an agent for the sterilization of combs containing the germs of American foulbrood has been developed." And then this one: "For killing diseased bees preparatory to burning, calcium cyanide has been brought to the front and is a most efficient agent for this purpose."

Well, we still do burn hives with AFB but today we can use soapy water to kill bees instead of cyanide. Seems a bit safer, doesn't it.

## NEWSY BITS

Please visit the newly revised National Honey Board website at [honey.com](http://honey.com). You might want to receive the recipe newsletter. Remember, if you are selling honey, that giving a recipe with the jar makes people come back for more honey!

The year 2010 is the 200th anniversary of Langstroth. So you will see articles and information about him in the bee journals. The digital magazine *Bee Craft America* will be running a series of articles in their quarterly issues.

For those who want a bit of information on the life of bumble bees I can recommend this website:

<http://hercules.users.netlink.co.uk/Bee.html>  
The information is basic but accurate and should be kept in mind when vigorously cleaning up your property. Bumble bees are declining. They need our help as much as honey bees do.

In addition to that website, IBRA (International Bee Research Association) has posted several free pamphlets on the care and value of bumble bees, solitary bees and honey bees. Although written for the UK, the information is very appropriate for the USA. Here is the website: [www.ibra.org.uk](http://www.ibra.org.uk) Then scroll down to the section on Information Leaflets.

Dr. Jeff Pettis, head of the Bee Lab at Beltsville, MD, gave a talk at the Entomological Society of America in December. He said that CCD does not have just one cause but rather arises from a combination of factors. Diet and stress contribute as do viruses. So if you hear or read about "a cause" just realize that it is just some one person's opinion.

You might wish to consider a summer vacation in the Great Smokies. Well, the Eastern Apicultural Society is holding its annual Short Course and Conference in Boone, NC, at Appalachian State University. You can attend either one or both the Short Course and Conference. Go to the website to find out more: [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org) It will be a week filled with workshops, speakers from the bee labs and universities, and you will be in the company of beekeepers, all talking bees.

## COOKING WITH HONEY

Let's put some interest in vegetables this month.

### CARROT TZIMMES WITH APPLES

1 pound carrots  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon lemon juice  
2/3 cup honey  
1-3/4 cup diced apples

Scrape carrots. Split in half and slice about 1/4 inch thick. Cook carrots by your favorite way. Drain and set aside. Combine salt, lemon juice and honey, then add diced apples. Simmer gently about 10 minutes. Add carrots to apples. Simmer gently until apples are tender, about 5 minutes longer. Yield 4 servings.

NATURE'S GOLDEN TREASURE HONEY COOKBOOK Joe M. Parkhill

### VEGETABLES WITH SPICY PEANUT SAUCE

1/2 cup honey  
1/4 cup peanut butter  
2 tablespoons soy sauce  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro  
1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes  
4 cups broccoli florets  
4 cups sliced carrots  
4 cups snow peas  
6 cups cooked rice

Combine honey, peanut butter, soy sauce, cilantro and red pepper in small bowl; mix well and set aside. Steam vegetables until crisp-tender; drain well. Toss vegetables with peanut sauce in large bowl. Serve immediately over rice. Makes 6 servings.

SWEETENED NATURALLY WITH HONEY  
National Honey Board

### STRAWBERRY GLAZE FOR CARROTS

2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons honey  
1 cup strawberries (whole or cut up)  
In small pan melt butter, add honey, mix and add fresh or frozen strawberries. Bring to boil and pour over cooked carrots before serving.  
A HONEY COOKBOOK A.I. Root Co.



## GOOD STUFF

Jerry Headley of Virginia Bee Supply will have 3-pound package bees and queens available between the third week of March and the first week of April. Packages are approximately \$68. Anyone interested in ordering packages, contact Jerry at 540-905-5563 or [www.virginiabeesupply.com](http://www.virginiabeesupply.com).

You can start telling friends and anyone else about the Bee Course that will be starting in February. Class fee \$100 for texts, CDs, etc.

It will be at Verdun Adventure Bound on Rt 229 north of Rixeyville and about 4.5 miles south of Rt 211.

Registration Social on Sunday February 7 from 2-4 at Verdun and first class at 7-9 PM on February 9.

**NPBA members** - please put the February 7 day on your calendar because we would like NPBA members to come and greet the new beekeepers-to-be. Also you can sign up as a Mentor for the newbees.

Questions about the Bee Course? Remember, if you have taken the course in the past you can attend any and all classes without charge. It's a good way to refresh your memory and also to get any updates in the beekeeping world.

Oh yes - questions. You can contact Mike King and Karen Hunt at [kahu9@juno.com](mailto:kahu9@juno.com) or phone 540-837-4792, or Ann Harman

### VIRGINIA BEE SUPPLY

Local authorized Brushy Mountain dealer offering a complete selection of woodenware and bee supplies. Save shipping costs. Contact Jerry Headley at 540-905-5563 or [www.virginiabeesupply.com](http://www.virginiabeesupply.com).

### C & H BEE BOOKS

If you are interested in bee books contact Ann for a list of books available.

We cannot accept credit cards but checks and cash are just fine!