



# Northern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

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JUNE

We'll be having our usual Chinese Auction.

So bring some money and buy some tickets.

For newbies to NPBA: we have donations from equipment suppliers and also from beekeepers. NPBA uses the proceeds for speakers and programs.

## HIVE WORKS FOR JUNE

Remember to remove attendants in queen cages when introducing the new queen.

Maintain good ventilation throughout the hive during nectar flow. The bees have to evaporate the water in the nectar to produce honey.

Spring means grass and weeds are growing in your apiary. Mow so that your bees have a clear entrance for flight and a good working surface for you. Aim the mower discharge away from the hive entrance. You might need to wear a veil while mowing.

There is no need to inspect your colony during nectar flow and honey ripening unless you suspect a problem.

Check your uncapping knife and extractor. Be sure they are clean and ready for use in July.

This is about the last month you can get the bees to draw foundation unless they are fed heavily. If you got package bees, check on their progress. Keep feeding package bees until they do not take the syrup.

Be a good weather watcher and plant watcher. Your bees will benefit.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We had another good turnout at the last meeting, where Mike Wilson did a fabulous presentation about honey extraction, complete with extraction equipment to help demonstrate and a very nice handout. Thanks Mike! We had a number of new faces at the meeting, and it's encouraging to see the continued interest in bees and beekeeping. New club member Lisa Torres reported that the 4-H club in Culpeper is moving forward with new beehives with the help of Bob Duxbury.

A big "thank you" to all those who brought their empty package boxes to the meeting, and those that have already returned them to the barn at Verdun (aka "Adventure Bound"). If you still have empty boxes to return, you can bring them with you to the picnic.

Speaking of the picnic, if you have not attended before, Verdun has a very nice pavilion. Please bring a dish to share, and you can use the grill if you wish. There is a great "Chinese Auction" and in addition, the winning raffle ticket for the beautiful bee quilt made by Susan Ishmael will be drawn. Thanks to all those who have already bought raffle tickets for the quilt. If you haven't, the picnic will be your last opportunity! Thanks to Susan for making the quilt for the club, and thanks to all those who have bought tickets. I hope to see everyone at the picnic!

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I would like to remind all beekeepers, but most especially the ones new to beekeeping this year, that if you are feeding sugar syrup and harvest it it is **illegal**. Why? Honey comes from the nectar of flowers.

I am truly tired of receiving a jar of pale stuff from a new beekeeper who proudly tells me it is honey. No it is not. It is sugar syrup. It is blah. I do not want it. **And you must not sell it!**

The sugar syrup fed to the bees has a purpose. For a newly installed package or a nuc it is a boost to create a big strong colony to go into the winter. For early spring feeding to an established colony it stimulates the queen so we have a big strong colony ready to take advantage of our early nectar flow. When those honey supers go ON, the sugar syrup should have been OFF a couple of weeks before!

## POTLUCK PICNIC INFORMATION

**The NPBA annual potluck picnic will be held from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Sunday, June 14, rain or shine.**

The place will be the Pavilion (has a roof) at Verdun Adventure Bound.

Bring something delicious to eat and please bring a serving utensil for it (important).

NPBA furnishes plates, eating utensils, cups napkins and drinks (water, ice tea).

Please park in the parking area. Walk down to the Pavilion between the big Classroom building and the apiary. If you have something heavy like an ice chest or awkward to carry it is possible to drive to the top of the stairs leading down to the Pavilion but there is really no parking there.

## DIRECTIONS

### From the North:

From Rt 211, at the light at the intersection of Rt 229 to Culpeper. Take Rt 229 toward Culpeper. In about 4 miles you will pass the Rescue Squad on your left. Very shortly after that you will see, on the Left, the sign for Verdun Adventure Bound. Turn Left, take gravel road past big red barn, down a little hill to the parking area on Right. Walk to Pavilion going past the Classroom building on Right and Apiary on Left.

### From the South:

From Culpeper take Rt 229 north. You will pass Rixeyville. You will go over the Hazel River bridge. A few miles past the bridge you will see on your Right both the Verdun Adventure Bound sign and a Rescue Squad sign. If you pass the Rescue Squad you have gone too far. Turn around. Now follow other instructions above.

Ann will not be at the picnic -- she is on assignment in Nigeria at that time.

Keith Fletcher videoed how packaged bees are made on his trip to Willbanks with Dane.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrAsVtfcQEU> and some short ones:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/PWRBeekeepers>

## POLLINATION

This brief bit of history is from [Beekeeping Tips and Topics](#) by E. R. Jaycox

Our knowledge of pollination has been accumulated relatively recently. Even in the 18th century, people had little idea of what happened between flowers and bees. In 1787, a German pastor, Kristian Konrad Sprengel, looked into the flower of a wild geranium and noticed hairs on the bases of the petals. He decided the hairs must be there to prevent water from running into the flower, much as his eyebrows kept sweat out of his eyes, but he could not decide why the flower would benefit by such hairs. He thought about this matter and other botanical problems so much that his congregation complained about his poorly prepared sermons. Later, Sprengel noticed a yellow ring around the center of the forget-me-not blossom, and the yellow mark in the throat of other flowers. He saw liquid in the center of the flower that was sweet to his taste. Some early writer had said that this floral juice was poisonous and that bees benefited the flowers by removing it.

Gradually, Sprengel put all his observations together. The spots seemed to indicate where a bee would drink, while the hairs kept rain water from diluting the sweet liquid. The pollen grains left by the bees, rather than the removal of the liquid, provided the true benefit for the flowers—pollination.

Pastor Springel wrote a book about his observations. However, instead of renown for his writings, he acquired only problems. Scientists ignored him; he lost his pastoraage, and he was forced to teach languages and conduct botanical field trips on Saturdays to make a living. Much of our present knowledge about pollination has been built on the observations made by Konrad Sprengel during his lifetime, which ended in 1816.

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Today we know much more about pollination but scientists continue to study its secrets. We still need to know the optimum number of hives per acre for different crops. We also need to know the best placement of hives for meximum pollination. We also can only guess at the benefits for various wildlife.

*pollination cont.*

Are honey bees the best pollinators? In some ways yes, in other ways no.

A hive of honey bees contains a large number of field bees, anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000 flying out each day. The need for pollen is governed by brood rearing, so a good queen is necessary. Genetics also plays a part. Some colonies and some strains of bees do a better job than others.

Honey bees are flower consistent. That is once they visit a particular crop they will continue to visit that crop until it ceases to provide pollen and/or nectar. Are all the field bees going to the same crop? Not always. The scout bees have searched the area. One colony may be visiting some field of wildflowers while the rest of the colonies are visiting the crop they were intended for. Sometimes placement of hives in a crop can influence which colony goes where.

Hives can be fastened together and moved from place to place on small trucks, bigger trucks and tractor trailers.

Some crops do not always use honey bees. Alfalfa, grown for seed in the Midwest, is one example. Alkali bees and alfalfa leafcuttr bees are used. Large trays of soil are provided for the alkali bees and nesting straws are set in shelters for the leafcutters. If you have driven through the Midwest alfalfa lands you may have seen these strange structures.

Many of the small pollen bees have a very short life span as adults, perhaps a month to 6 weeks. Honey bees are active 12 months of the year. However during the short time the pollen bees are active they can do a better job of pollination than honey bees. But it may be necessary to “manage” them in a sense. Growers with large crop areas may need to have a number of nest containers brought into the crop for adequate pollination.

Are you growing any squash this summer? If so, during the morning hours look and see if you see some bees, smaller than honey bees, visiting the blossoms. The squash bee is an effective pollinator.

## COOKING WITH HONEY

We're into picnic times of year. Here are some nice recipes for you to try.

### HONEY LEMON SLAW

1/2 cup mayonnaise  
2 tablespoons honey  
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon rind  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger  
4 cups shredded cabbage  
1/2 cup raisins

Stir together first 5 ingredients. Add cabbage and raisins. Mix and chill. About 8 servings.

### CHUNKY VEGETABLE SALAD WITH HERB DRESSING

4 cups vegetables (cherry tomatoes, cucumber, asparagus, cooked beets, potatoes, lettuce, mixed greens, or a combination, cut into bite-size pieces)  
1 tablespoon honey  
1/2 teaspoon lemon juice, or more to taste  
1/2 cup plain yogurt  
1 tablespoon scallions, minced  
1 tablespoon parsley, minced  
1 teaspoon fresh oregano OR dill OR chervil OR basil, minced  
1/2 teaspoon salt

Place cut vegetables in serving bowl. In a small bowl combine the honey and lemon juice. Stir in yogurt, herbs and salt. Mix well. Mix with vegetables and serve. Yield 6 servings

HONEY by Gene Opton

Be certain you are using honey to sweeten ice tea this summer. Honey mixes easily with cold ice tea. Sugar just falls to the bottom of the glass.

WHAT'S BLOOMING?	
dandelions	garden flowers
basswood	white Dutch clover
holly trees	milkweed
chicory	vipers bugloss
sumac	Virginia creeper
yellow and white sweet clover	
poison ivy (bees love it--no you won't itch)	
daisy-like flowers	herbs

## IMPORTANT STUFF

The new 4-H beekeeping group, with Bob Duxbuy as advisor and leader, has 10 enthusiastic members with four adult volunteers. They have had some donations to get started.

Now, with two swarms established and a donated package, equipment for their bees is a must.

Please consider donating hive bodies and foundation (badly needed) and any other beekeeping equipment you do not need.

You can also donate money so that the 4-Hers can buy what they need.

Let's all help these 4-Hers who are so excited about their bees! They are doing a great job!

### Meeting dates for NPBA:

September 17  
October 15  
November 19

June 14 Sunday Potluck Picnic

No meetings in July, August, Decemeber

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VSBA autumn meeting Saturday, November 7 at Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, just off I-81.

Eastern Apicultural Society Short Course August 3, 4, 5; conference August 5, 6, 7 at Ellicottville NY (near Buffalo).

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For information about Virginia State Beekeepers Association go to the website:

[www.virginiabeekeepers.org](http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org)

### C & H BEE BOOKS

If you are interested in bee books contact C & H Bee Books for a list of books available. Call Ann to request a book list.

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