



Jun 2006

# Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

A Newsletter of the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association, PO Box 8880, Warwick, RI 02888

## The President's Message

By the time this reaches everyone, the first good flow should be on. I've noticed that the Black Locust in my area is setting buds already and that the Linden (Bass Wood) is looking good as well. So far so good! We have had rain enough, thankfully, to soak the ground and set the stage for ample available moisture for the coming bloom. Now lets hope (and pray) for some warm nights and sunny days so that the trees and plants will have the energy to produce many beautiful, and bountiful, blossoms.

Warmer nights and sunnier days would do our girls some good as well! Warmer temperatures make it easier to keep the brood warm; therefore more brood could be raised. Not to mention clear, warm skies make for nice flying, and nectar gathering to boot. Ah, let's all look forward to a good season, and be thankful for whatever we get. "And may the blessing of the rain be on you - the soft sweet rain.

May it fall upon your spirit so that all the little flowers may spring up, and shed their sweetness on the air" from an old Irish blessing.

Bee Well,  
Kit Mayers,  
President, Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

## The Bee Calendar

### June

**The Bees.** Un-swarmed colonies will be boiling with bees. The queen's rate of egg laying may drop a bit this month. The main honey flow should happen this month.

**The Beekeeper.** Inspect the hive weekly to make certain the hive is healthy and the queen is present.

Add honey supers as needed. Keep up swarm inspections. Attend bee club meetings and workshops.

**Time Spent.** Estimate 4-5 hours.

### Next Meeting

Sunday June 11, 2006 at 2:00 PM  
Home of Kate Malmberg  
1775 Snake Hill Road  
Chepachet, RI 02814  
(401) 568-2766

Subject: Hive Inspection & Splits  
Bring Chairs – Veils / Gloves  
Last name A-M Entrée, N-Z Dessert

Directions to the Malmberg's on back

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## **The Secretary's Report**

The May 21st meeting was called to order at 2:18 PM at the home of Vivian and Stan Peasley.

Workers are needed for the Master Gardeners Conference in Newport, June 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

Bernie Bieder reported that he passed out a tasting of honey at the Ag Day display at the State House on May 17.

Mark Robar suggested that we need two bee inspectors due to the fact that Jim Lawson has too many other duties, and hive health problems are threatened by the rise in American Foul Brood.

His suggestion for a moment of silence will be considered by executive board

Several hives at the Peasley's were inspected despite threatening weather. One of them was without a queen and combined with another. Another hive had a stack of honey supers on it that required Stan to use a step ladder to access the top! Um, um, honey!

### **For Sale**

Bernie has had more Rhode Island Beekeepers Association Caps made up. The association name is embroidered in gold, and there is also an embroidered gold bee on one side of the cap. Price is \$15.00.

Call Bernie at 463-8654, or e-mail him at [beeman704@Cox.net](mailto:beeman704@Cox.net)

### **Swarm Control**

Make sure there is room for the queen to lay eggs in brood supers, or you can divide the brood into two different boxes to make a split. You can either order a new queen or let them supersede in the new colony. Another trick to take the swarming pressure off a colony is to put a brood box on top of the honey supers with a queen excluder between them. Take several brood heavy frames

from the lower brood boxes and place empty frames where they were, place the frames with the "extra" brood in the box on top (make sure to have a total of ten frames when you are done) This will take some of the population pressure off of the queen and you will still have a booming colony. After the big spring build up you can remove the box on top (once the brood has hatched out).

### **Louis Chasse's Workshop**

The next (free) workshop at Lou's will be held June 10 at 2:00 PM at his house. Some subjects will be splits, the health of the queen, and how to determine good brood patterns.

For directions to Lou's, or if the weather is questionable call 295-0888

Louis J. Chasse  
420 Cogdon Hill Rd.  
Saunderstown, R.I. 02874

### **Bee Venom Class**

A bee venom class will be held on June 15- for details and information you can call Anna Browder at 521-6389 or email her at [annabrowder@verizon.net](mailto:annabrowder@verizon.net)

### **Africanized Honey Bees**

To date there have been fourteen deaths attributed to the AHB. More people are killed by hitting deer. In Florida, where the officials have finally admitted that there is an AHB problem, there are fourteen Florida counties with AHB. One county forbid any beekeeping activity with the result that there were 1500 AHB hives that settled in. To remove them there was a charge of \$500.00 each. There are no confirmed finds in Virginia Maryland and Delaware.

*-National Honey Board*

### **F. Y. I**

The association carries an insurance policy covering damages occurred at an

event in which the association takes part. In it does not cover damages against individual beekeepers. If you would like to have insurance coverage you can call John Howard at Family Farm Insurance, telephone # 397-1050

### **For New Beekeepers**

Some of the best advice we can give you is to stress the attendance of the free workshops conducted by Louis Chasse on the second Saturday of the month (as mentioned earlier in this newsletter) or attending our association meetings on the second Sunday of the month. These are hands on events, with the opening and inspection of active bee colonies in a number of environments and strength.

### **Electronic Newsletter**

The newsletter takes several days to reach members through the mail after it has been drafted. It first has to be delivered to the printer, where it can take several days to be printed, and then it has to be picked up and brought to the post office in Providence. There it goes into their system and after they spin their magic it finally ends up in your mail box.

The newsletter has been available for many months now via e-mail. Members on the email list receive the newsletter in their in boxes the night that I burn the disc for the printer. This can be as much as a week to ten days before it shows up in your snail mail. If you are not on the email list you can contact me (Kit Mayers) at [kickingcrow@cox.net](mailto:kickingcrow@cox.net) , or Bill Jones at [wwjnsfrm@AOL.com](mailto:wwjnsfrm@AOL.com). In the future we may offer members on the email list the option to not receive "hard copies" of the newsletter in their postage, which has the potential of saving the association some monies. There will be more information on this in the future. Kit

### **Upcoming Outdoor Meetings**

July 9, Kit & Diane Mayers-  
Woonsocket

August 13, David & Lisa Clay- Foster

September 10, Paul & Kathy Whewell-  
Lincoln

### **Tips for Finding Queens:**

All you really need to do is look for eggs in the brood area to see if your queen is still viable and laying. But if you need to find the queen for removal, these tips may help those of us that are "queen challenged"!

- 1) Marked queens are much easier to spot. Note; there are people that do not like to tamper with their queens.
- 2) Use minimal smoke. Remove supers and stack them on the inverted cover. Don't smoke the bees down into the lower brood nest.
- 3) If queen excluder is present, the queen should be in one of the two brood chambers.
- 4) The brood chamber with the most brood, especially eggs, is where the queen is more likely to be found.
- 5) Some beekeepers start the search at the center of each brood chamber after removing a frame from the hive wall. -Quickly scan the comb next to the frame that you have removed prior to checking the frame in hand.
- 6) The queen's retinue (that circle of attendants that are often found around the queen) assists in locating the queen.
- 7) Be careful to hold the frame that you are inspecting over the hive during inspection in the event the queen falls off.
- 8) In general, during the spring the queen is likely to be found in the upper brood chamber.
- 9) Anecdotal evidence suggests that during cooler temperatures, the queen is likely to be found on the sunny side of

the hive, whereas during hot weather she will be found on the shadier side of the hive.

10) If the queen still can't be found, reassemble the colony with queen excluders between the boxes. Return in four days and search for eggs. The box with the eggs contains the queen.

11) Hard to find queens can be found by "straining" the bees through a queen excluder. Fasten a queen excluder to an empty hive body. Place the strainer above a hive body containing honey, comb or brood (no bees) and shake or brush the bees frame by frame into the strainer. Gentle puffs of smoke will drive the worker bees below and the queen and drones are left above the excluder unable to squeeze through.

### **E.A.S.**

The dates are July 31-Aug.4 at Young Harris, Ga. I have broken down expenses for the Short Course (for new and smaller beekeepers) which runs Mon-Wed afternoon and Main Conference (Wed afternoon-Fri evening). This includes room and meals. The Short Course- \$379, the Conference- \$408. For listing of courses and complete info contact Bernie at [beeman704@cox.net](mailto:beeman704@cox.net) or call 463-8654.

### **Directions to Kate Malmborg's**

From Providence - take route #6 west until it turns into #101 west. Travel on #101 West until the intersection of #102 (Country Bistro restaurant on corner). Stay on #101 west another 3.5 miles to second yellow flashing light.

Turn right onto Pray Hill Rd. Go two miles. Pray Hill Rd turns into Snake Hill Rd, and we are the yellow house (#1775) on the left.

## ***RI Beekeepers Association***

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