



Newsletter

Vol. 4, 3rd Quarter Fall Issue 2012

RIBBON CUTTING AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE INAUGURATES BEE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

A unique and innovative collaboration between RIBA and Rhode Island College has occurred with the installation of two beehives on the college's campus for the purpose of public education. In the planning since the fall of 2011 with the direct support of RIC's president Nancy Carriuolo and the help of many the administrative staff, the setting up of the empty hives occurred in the spring anticipating installation in April but student concerns delayed the arrival of the packaged bees on campus until late June. The hives were donated by Beehavin' Apiaries thanks to former RIBA president Everett Zurlinden; they were painted by RIBA vice-president Ed Lafferty; they were cared for until the end of June by president Jeff McGuire; and they were transported to the RIC site by Richard and Carolyn Lobban. Since their arrival they have been tended by RIC grads and RIBA members Scott and Emily Langlais who live in the neighborhood, as



RIC president Nancy Carriuolo cuts ribbon officially opening two beehives for public education

as well as RIC's Sustainability Coordinator Jim Murphy who has become an apprentice beekeeper. A ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the college's new beekeeping project was held on Wednesday, August 15, at 10 AM on the East Campus between Buildings 7 and 8, at the location of RIC's two beehives. The event was presided over by chief supporter President Carriuolo—who has named the hives for their respective Queens "Latifah" and "Bee-atrice." Dozens of RIC staff, community members, and local officials and politicians were in at-

and politicians were in attendance. Mount Pleasant State Representative Ray Hull, Kenneth Ayars of the DEM Division of Agriculture & Resource Marketing, and RI State Bee Inspector Jim Lawson were welcomed at the event. Also in attendance was local children's book author Susan Ring who has written *Honeybees, an Amazing Insect Discovery Book*. Refreshments were served in the Forman Center conference room following the ribbon cutting at which President Carriuolo, Carolyn Fluehr Lobban and the state officials offered their personal remarks and reflections on this unique development at the college.

The arrival of the beehives was featured in an August 5th article in the *Providence Journal* which summarized a workshop the previous day held at the college on "Bees and Urban Farming" co-hosted by RIC's Sustainability program and the South Side Community Land Trust. Thirty-five community members were in attendance (go to p. 3)

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Fall

2012 Issue

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Join RIBA, Become a Member, attend informative meetings, Receive the Quarterly Newsletter

Send your name, address and phone number and \$15 annual membership dues to:

RIBA temporary Co-Treasurers,

Cindy Bapties

Lori Dobson

Make the check payable to, "RIBA".

Include your email address if you prefer to receive information electronically, or by post at your home address

www.ribeekeeper.org

**NEW VOLUNTEER CO-TREASURERS
REPLACE TONY DIGIUOLO who has re-located to California**

**Cindy Bapties
(ribasweet@gmail.com)
and Lori Dobson
(loridobson@yahoo.com)**

**have stepped up to the plate and volunteered to take over the duties of Treasurer until the new elections in April 2013
THANK YOU!**

Summer to Fall PHOTOS

Send your photos for the next issue to cfluehr@ric.edu



"Bearding" after application of Miteaway strips, late August (Photo c. fluehr-lobban)



President Carriuolo, Jim Murphy, Richard Lobban and Jim Lawson at RIC reception



State Representative Ray Hull at RIC reception August

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeff McGuire, RIBA President
(jeffmcguire1@cox.net)



Another summer has come and gone and another bee season is soon to be over. It has been a very good year as far as the bees are concerned, not too much rain and enough sun to keep the flowers blooming. With the weather cooperating so well swarms were prevalent even from packages. Many new beekeepers had a good first year producing some honey and others found out the beekeeping reality that it is unpredictable at best. I learn something new every year and this year was no exception. I tried small scale queen rearing and was pretty successful, eight out of ten queens successfully mated and returned to their hives and made nice nucs that I will over winter. Queen rearing is something everyone should try once you have the basics down.

Mite treatments should be completed by now and everyone should be evaluating their hives for over wintering. Combining weak hives into one strong one will give them a better chance of surviving winter. A full deep of honey is minimal to ensure enough food to make until spring.

The October dinner will feature Jim Tew as our guest speaker. Jim is an extremely knowledgeable and entertaining speaker you won't be disappointed. Honey Judging has had to be postponed to the November meeting as our judges are not able to attend. Reservations must be received by September 15th.

On October 20th and 21st we will be at Salisbury Farm where Keith Salisbury has created a bee themed corn maze this year. He has invited us to talk about bees and sell some honey too. There are hay rides and pick your own pumpkins it should be a fun weekend.

Beehives at RIC (cont'd from p. 1)

as Scott Langlais demonstrated basic beekeeping by opening the two hives and providing a visual, on-site basic education about honey bees and their colony management. The hive demonstration was followed by a power point presentation in the Sherlock Center next to the hives by Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban on “Bees and the Urban Environment.” The college announced the arrival of the beehives with the following statements: “Rhode Island College continues its comprehensive efforts to promote sustainable living and protect the environment by establishing a beekeeping program in partnership with the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association (RIBA). The college has become the first institution of higher learning in the state to host beehives which have been donated by the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association.”

Rhode Island College President Nancy Carriuolo stated, “I am proud that Rhode Island College is taking another step forward in its ongoing efforts to promote green initiatives and assist in the collective work to safeguard our most treasured asset – our environment.” Carriuolo continued, “By fostering a culture of sustainability among students, faculty and the community at-large, we are doing our part to create a brighter future for generations to come. I would like to thank Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Richard Lobban and the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association for their generosity and for sharing their expertise with us. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all who have helped bring us to where we stand today.”



L-r: Scott and Emily Langlais, RIBA members tending the RIC hives & newsletter editor

Jim Murphy, who came to Rhode Island College in September 2008, is RIC’s first sustainability coordinator and will oversee the programs at RIC which develop as a result of the presence of the beehives. He is a member of the college’s Green Team and is working with RIC undergraduates to re-establish the environmental club. In addition, he oversees the RIC Community Garden, located on grounds adjacent to the college. The idea of RIC hosting a RIBA Bee School in the spring of 2013 is under discussion.

Coupling the art of practical beekeeping with public education, research, urban gardens and farmers markets, along with sustainability initiatives is a perfect complement to RIC’s historic and evolving mission with urban education in the state. Rhode Island College is one of several institutions of higher learning to establish beekeeping programs. Some others include Bristol Community College in Massachusetts, the universities of Florida, Georgia, Kentucky and Missouri as well as Delaware Valley College in Pennsylvania and Albion College in Michigan. Beekeeping is an activity that has implications across a variety of academic disciplines including nursing, psychology, anthropology, economics, environmentalism and agriculture to name just a few.

For more information contact James Murphy, RIC sustainability coordinator at (401) 456-8799 or jmurphy2@ric.edu



ANNUAL FALL DINNER

OCTOBER 7, 2012

12:00—4:30PM

Fall dinner meeting is Sunday, Columbus day weekend, at The Pines, North Smithfield

Speaker: Dr. Jim Tew

Silent raffle

(more details p. 10, 11)

Schedule of Fall meetings

October meeting is the Harvest Dinner

November 11- Honey Judging

December 9 - Holiday party

(after the Harvest dinner meetings resume in the fall at the Rocky Hill Grange, 1340 South Country Trail (Rt. 2) East Greenwich

Directions: I-95 North or South, Exit 8/Rt 25 Quaker Lane (Rt 8 from south, Rt 8A from north). Merge on to Rt 2 south, go through light at Division Street; Grange is on the left after the shopping center

PLEASE NOTE that as of September 2012 postcard reminders of the monthly meetings will NOT be mailed. Consult our website or clip this notice.

RIBA JAR RUN A BIG SUCCESS

Thanks to new co-Treasurers Cindy Bapties and Lori Dobson RIBA held another successful jar run this year with a total of 426 cases of jars sold at a value of \$4819.24. This service to RIBA members saves several dollars per case for the RI beekeeper who is bottling honey at the end of the season.

Much thanks to our new co-Treasurers for taking on this responsibility and organizing it so well.

In case you need further updates on your order, Cindy can be reached at: ribabeesweet@gmail.com.

Another measure of the growing number of beekeepers in the state is the fact that 250 packages came into Rhode Island this year as a result of the group order placed by RIBA on behalf of its members, according to President Jeff McGuire.

PLEASE HELP YOUR BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

KINDLY FILL OUT THE SURVEY ON THE BACK OF THE NEWSLETTER AND RETURN IT BY POST TO MY HOME ADDRESS OR SEND RESPONSES TO MY EMAIL ADDRESS: cfluehr@ric.edu

THANK YOU

NEW ENGLAND BEEKEEPING MEETINGS

Several RIBA members attended the Eastern Apiculture Association (EAS) that met in Burlington, VT this past August. Recall that EAS held its 2011 annual meeting last year in RI. Ed Lafferty and Celeste Nadworny reported that a seminar they attended on nosema cerana suggested that it may be the drones that are spreading the disease. The disease's build up is in June and July but it can survive through the winter. It is likely that the deformed wing virus was present before nosema became a major concern for American beekeepers.

Scott and Emily Langlais also attended and reported that Vermont beekeepers are enthusiastic about organic beekeeping. The Vermont beekeepers recommend splits as a way to increase local hives and decrease dependence on southern raised bees. They create multiple nucs which they use for successful overwintering of bees.

This report led to a discussion at the September meeting—held at Lynn Davignon's home in Cumberland—of the possibility of RIBA developing a queen rearing program as they have been doing in Vermont. President McGuire described his first successful experience at raising queens, eight of which were successfully mated and placed in nucs for overwintering. Locally raised queens should survive better, swarm less, and be sustainable over the long term.

The Southern New England Beekeepers' Association, (SNEBA) based in East Lyme, CT, has a queen rearing program that RIBA could use as a model. SNEBA will

host a regional meeting on November 10 in East Lyme, CT. Information about SNEBA and the meeting is at their website: www.SNEBA.org.



Christine Dwyer Wins Ribbons at FOSTER, RI FAIR

RIBA Program Chair Chris Dwyer won the large gold ribbon for Best Themed Piece, and a white ribbon for the technical aspect of knitting, being tension, gauge, pattern work, yarn, finishing and presentation. Congratulations!



Mormons, Bees and Beekeeping

by Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban

From August 31st to September 6th my daughter and I drove across country from Sacramento, CA to Providence as she is relocating back east ahead of her wedding in NH over the Columbus holiday weekend. Among many interesting places we visited along the way was our stop in Salt Lake City where we stayed the night in the Utah state capital. We knew this is an important city for the Mormon faith but we did not appreciate the centrality of bees and the beehive to Mormon theology, beliefs, and symbols. I knew that Utah has the *skep* as its symbol, but I had no idea that the beehive analogy was central to Mormon self-conceptions and to theological underpinnings of the faith. Here is some of what I learned.

Mormons idealize survival, independence and responsibility and the beehive provides the perfect metaphor for these beliefs. They also prize fertility and the fecund beehive represents this value as well. Of the many utopian (ideal or perfect place) communities that settled in America like the Amish, the Mormons uniquely adopted the bee and the beehive as symbols of their faith. "Deseret" is a Mormon term for a visionary place of security that also means honey bee. *Deseret* was the first name of the state of Utah given by Mormons for their followers who migrated to and settled in Utah. Thus the *skep* and *Deseret* are central to Mormon theology. The Beehive, represented in the *skep*, was used by the founders of the Mormon faith to be the iconic sym-



Road signs in Utah feature the state logo, the *skep*

symbol meant to solidify developing Mormon identity.

Joseph Smith, originally of Vermont, was the founder of the Mormon faith in the mid nineteenth century and Brigham Young was his most important disciple. Joseph Smith had bodyguards who had the *skep* sewn on their shirt sleeves as a symbol of solidarity and defense. Mormons, who began the faith in upstate New York, migrated to the Midwest where they established their first outpost of the faith in Nauvoo, Illinois. They took bees with them to Utah as they eventually fled the state of Illinois due to their persecution as a result of their practice of polygamy. The Mormon popular song used to express their common experience of persecution, "The Busy bees of Deseret," used the bees as an analogy describing their forced removal from Illinois. One verse in the song goes: *The busy bees of Deseret are still around the hives, although honey hunters in the world don't wish the bees to thrive.*

Thus, Beehives arrived in Utah in 1848. For transport the beehives were strapped to the back of the covered wagons that were hauled west in the Mormon caravans to Utah, including that of fabled Mormon leader Brigham Young. Many of the pilgrims walked to Utah from Nauvoo, Illinois pushing hand carts with their possessions. Danes, Welsh, Germans, and English were brought to Utah by the Mormons to promote their beekeeping industry. Emile Baxter planted the first vineyard (for the grapes, not wine) and the famous beekeeper Charles Dadant, founder of the still surviving Beekeeping supplies company, moved from France to Illinois to help promote the Mormon beekeeping industry. It was the mostly the German immigrants who set up the beekeeping businesses. In fact, the promise of booming beehives and bountiful honey were used by Mormons as propaganda to promote the settlement of Utah and the West. Mark Twain wrote in his famous book *Roughing it* that "The bee *skep* was simple, unostentacious and it fit like a glove" for the Mormons.

Mormons gathered for a convention at Temple Square, Salt Lake City



(cont'd on page 8)

Late Summer Early Fall Honey Report

James Praski
James.Praski@ams.usda.gov

Jim would like to hear from you with your observations and any information regarding your hives.

New England weather in July, for the most part had average temperatures generally well above normal combined with high humidity early on and throughout the month. Precipitation and soil moisture levels were average and held steady with ample pollen sources and many nectar sources starting to slow and end quickly. New England experienced hot daytime temperatures in the high 80s and mid-90s. There seemed to be a pattern where bees were bringing in little nectar and pollen early in the day and robbing is a problem later in the day with many bees feeding. Keepers reported that many bees were bearding outside the hives in order to escape the heat while others lined up with their backs toward the entrance and fan their wings to create a cooling air flow through the hive. Bearding indicates that the bees are not out foraging and are opportunistic to any easy nectar source because of their tendency to swarm to the nearest nectar source. Regionally, New England experienced a nectar dearth, so keepers reportedly watched for syrup feedings if necessary. The bees found it hard to find nectar with so much heat and humidity. Additionally, many bees were by the water sources as well which is customary for this time of season and weather pattern. Bees put what they are bringing inside the hive into brood production. It appeared that this season's main honey

is over. It was an interesting honey flow progression this year for New England. This season's main foraging sources started with honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrow*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), black locust (*Robinia pseudo acacia*), blackberry (*Rebus spp.*) Followed by multi-flora rose, which produces a golden brown pollen, shag horn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), linden-basswood, *Tilia cordata*, *T. Americana*, smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and with much of the region being dominated by white clover. Bees were working black locust, swamp thistle, button bush, purple loosestrife, wild radish, American basswood/linden (*Tilia Americana*), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), winded sumac, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), buckwheat, sweet pepper bush (*Chethora*), meadow sweet (produces a light olive pollen color) as well as vegetable crops and a variety of flowering trees and wild flowers. Some excellent pollen and nectar sources for bees are the legumes such as alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), purple vetch (*Vicia sativa*), birds foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), and clovers such as white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*) and yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) are all in full bloom at this point in time. Additionally with many unanticipated feeding sources available, this could be one of the best honey crop years in New England. The honey flow will dramatically slow as nectar becomes scarce, brood rearing slows down but there's still a large population of bees. Keepers advise to extract honey as soon as possible and leave enough honey for the bees during July and August when nectar is scarce. Honey flows have been good in strong

colonies with keepers reportedly extracting 3 times before starting their mite treatments. Early commercial crop pollination services involved cranberries with pollination fees ranging from \$75.00 to \$100.00 mostly \$80.00 per hive colony depending on transportation cost requirements. Early harvested honey reportedly was some of the highest quality and lightly colored ever. Harvested honey has been averaging 35 lbs. per colony. Beekeepers have been busy concentrating on extracting honey. The Italian and Russian honeybees have reportedly been the best honey producers with keepers that have been successful with huge honey production numbers. For the most part, colonies were reported to be good condition with few disease or mite problems however; there have been many reported wax moth problems. Tracheal and varroa mites are typically a problem in July and August. Prices quoted for retail 1lb bottled units were strong and quoted at \$7.00 to \$10.00 mostly \$9.00 and occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were strong with 5 gallon units selling at \$175.00 to \$215.00 mostly \$200.00 occasionally higher for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.

New England weather in August, for the most part, followed the exact path set in July, and was hot and humid with daytime temperatures in the high 80s and mid 90s early in the month. Bees brought in little nectar and pollen early in the day and later in the day many bees are fed on what has been stored. Precipitation and soil moisture levels were average with light pollen sources and many nectar sources starting to quickly end. Certain regional areas experienced drought like conditions for a longer time frame

frame than others but the entire region was hit hard with tropical style weather conditions. Areas with higher moisture levels created the resources for a prodigious honey flow with many of the usual late floral and nectar sources coming on early. In this regard, many of these sources came into full bloom too early and have not provided the necessary pollen for bee brood to work from. This created a serious problem because it necessitated the feeding of pollen substitute as well as sugar syrup which is a very rare situation and not easily recognized. Weather patterns changed flowering periods and changed foraging at key times. Bees were on an extended pollen and late nectar run bringing in a variety of pollens which is critical for brood rearing, to which there are few substitutes. Bee foraging went into brood production. This created an attractive mix for those selling honey. Keepers report that inexplicably this year they are noticing that there are not as many drones as with past years. They are observing that some drones in the pupae stage are being pulled from cells and dragged to the hive entrance which accounts for the low drone populations being reported. Bees were working smartweed (*Polygonum spp.*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), black locust, swamp thistle, button bush, purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), wild radish, American basswood/linden (*Tilia Americana*), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), wined sumac, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), buckwheat, sweet pepper bush (*Chethora*), meadow sweet (produces a light olive pollen color) as well as vegetable crops and a variety of flowering trees and wild flowers. Some excellent pollen and nectar sources for bees are the legumes such as alsike

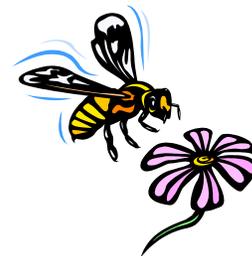
clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), purple vetch (*Vicia sativa*), birds foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), and clovers such as white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*) and yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) are all in full bloom at this point in time. This is a time when some keepers choose to re-queen in order to coincide with the nectar dearth and re-super for the last nectar flow going into the fall. August has been busy for most beekeepers as they start making decisions about overwintering. Most colonies are in very good condition; queen right, healthy worker populations with sufficient honey and pollen. Additionally, colonies have begun early winterizing with propolis and organizing their winter stores. It is still too early to assess the overall crop for the season as golden rod; knotweed and loosestrife are still blooming. At this point in time, reportedly most honey producers have been finding surplus honey, typically seeing 30-80 pounds in supers and are calling it a moderate year, not the worst but definitely not a great season for honey yields. Most keepers reportedly saw very little honey early in the season. Recently, New England has been receiving regular rainfall so the previous dry conditions have greatly improved for the latter part of August. There have been sporadic complaints regarding small hive beetles, wax moth infestation, varroa mites and nosema disease. Affected colonies that have been slow to build populations seem to bounce back after treatment with Fumidil-B., to the point that these colonies with heavy mite loads look like they will be able to right themselves before winter. Varroa mites have been at higher levels than the last two years and beekeepers are scrambling to treat in order to

to treat in order to lower the mite populations. This is often at the loss of any late honey as you usually do not treat colonies when collecting honey. Utilizing screened bottom boards helps to keep the mite population down. Many keepers are experimenting with brood interruption for mite control. Secondly, keepers are requeening with locally raised queens and this procedure seems to shut down brood production when nectar flows shut down. Consequently keepers are feeding with sugar syrup and also feeding pollen with mega food patties as a substitute for natural pollen. Harvested honey this month



Bee on Cone Flower (Photo c. fluehr-lobban)

has been averaging 50 lbs. per colony. Prices and demand for local and regional honey has been excellent and anyone with honey to sell is getting the best price and there is not enough to meet the demand. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$7.00 to \$10.00 mostly \$9.00 occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were steady with 5 gallon units at \$175.00 to \$215.00 mostly \$200.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.



Deseret, as Utah was called by the Mormons, was first proposed as an independent state or nation to be recognized by the US rather than as one of the United States of America. This proposal was denied by the federal government after which the Mormon leaders then applied for statehood. They applied six times to become a state under the name *Deseret*. This too was denied by the US government and the Mormon territory only succeeded to become a state when Utah was selected as an alternate name.

The skep is used in the Mormon communal coat of arms symbolizing industry, harmony, order, and frugality of the people and the sweet results of their toil, union and intelligent cooperation" (*Deseret News*, 1881). The residence of Brigham Young in Salt Lake City was known as "the Beehive House" (see picture) and this building was the center of Utah politics in 1854 when Utah became a state. It remained the center of Mormon organization throughout the life of Brigham Young. Skeps are carved into the house's staircase pillars, doorknobs and door jams.

The skep was retained as the state symbol to this day and Utah has been referred to as the honey state. The Mormon beekeeping industry has been maintained by the Mormons who operate several honey processing plants in the US, one of the largest is located on the border between Georgia and Florida. As part of the practice of their faith, Mormons are required to keep stores of food to sustain families during emergencies. These include the following provisions: wheat, water,

dried milk, salt and honey.

Mormons are Christians who believe in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible as well as *The Book of Mormon* which contains the revelations and teachings of Joseph Smith. Bees are mentioned in the Book of Mormon, especially by their ancient prophet Lehi who was fond of bees. Our stopover in Salt Lake City on Route 80 east, all the way from Sacramento to Providence, was certainly a revealing and interesting one regarding bees and the Mormon faith.



**The "Beehive House,"
home to early Mormon
leader Brigham Young,
Salt Lake City**



*Utah state flag with the
skep centered as a symbol*

OVERWINTERING TIPS

The following is extracted from president Jeff McGuire's presentation at the September monthly meeting offering tips for overwintering hives.

1. The winters in New England are unpredictable. March is the killer month.
2. Feeding now is a good idea for the fall build up ahead of winter's dearth.
3. Consider combining a weak hive with a stronger one for saving the weak hive.
4. Control moisture levels in the hive. This is the most important factor in successful overwintering.
5. Clean out hives now in preparation for winter, A slatted rack and bottom board help ventilation.
6. It is critical to place mouse guards at the hive entrance.
7. If you desire, treat the hive prophylactically with fumigillin syrup once the supers are off.

RHODE ISLAND'S CORN MAZE

It is common to hear about corn mazes in the larger agricultural states of the mid-Atlantic and England and Midwest states but corn mazes in New England, much less Rhode Island, is something new. Keith Salisbury, creator of a corn maze in Johnston, RI, was a guest at the July monthly RIBA meeting held at the home of Shelly Arena in Gloucester. Keith related how he came to create the corn maze and invited RIBA members to come to the fall festival at his farm and view the maze on the weekend of October 20th-21st. RIBA will have a display table and members are welcome to bring their honey for sale.

I asked Keith how he got into beekeeping. He reported that his brother and uncle kept bees in the 1970s and 1980s, and he remembered the taste of honey and honey comb straight from the hive from his childhood. Getting a hive was in the back of his mind for years until 2011. Family health issues forced me to re-think our food sources and choices. "We had the land and the outbuildings, so we started keeping chickens with plans to add other food sources as time and money permitted. Bees were on the list, but they weren't really on the short list. This past April one of our farm em-



ployees got a package of bees from the first spring package run. Speaking with him sparked my interest and set the wheels in motion. Within days I had sourced my woodenware, joined RIBA, and got my name on the list for my first two packages. The learning curve has been steep, but rewarding. I've enjoyed great success so far. The colonies have grown by leaps and bounds, and I was even able to harvest one super of honey from my strongest hive. .

Keith got the idea of the corn maze with a bee message together with his brother who come up with the maze design each year. "It is always a challenge to come up with a decent idea that can be applied to a field of corn successfully. This year when we sat down to discuss ideas I had just started keeping bees. The idea just kind of took off from there. With my Mother's artistic help, and three or four drafts later, we had a design."

The farm is located in Johnston, RI. The mailing address is 11 Peck Hill Road, Johnston, RI 02919. From 295 take exit 4 and head west on Plainfield Pike for approximately 2.5 miles. The farm will be on your right. If your GPS accepts intersection destinations enter the corner of Peck Hill Road and Plainfield Pike. The website address is www.salisburyfarm.com; Keith Salisbury [bearhawk949@gmail.com]. He can be reached at 401-474-6121.



Beehives at Rhode Island College before bee package installation S

Chain link fence is for bee and public security. Bees fly up and over fence



SOME HONEY FACTS

1. To make a pound of honey, bees visit 2 million blossoms.
2. A single female worker bee will make only 1/12th of a tea-spoon of honey in her lifetime
3. Bees add to honey 18 of the 20 essential amino acids needed for human health, all secreted from their bodies
4. Honey is sweeter than sugar but with fewer calories.
5. Honey is rich in antioxidants which help stabilize or deactivate free radicals that attack healthy cells.
6. Honey is a natural preservative.
7. Honey is effective in treating burns, infected wounds, or bed-sores that do not respond to antibiotics.
8. Honey is better for treating coughs and may alleviate seasonal allergies.
9. Honey stimulates intestinal health and is a natural laxative.



WAX MOTH TRAPS

There is still time to reduce or eliminate those pesky wax moths that love to invade our weak hives or empty hives stored in the bee yard. They destroy comb and foul frames making them difficult or impossible to re-use.

A simple recipe for trapping and killing them is to take a one liter bottle soda or drink bottle and cut out a hole the size of quarter and fill the bottle with a combination of :

- one cup of water
- one cup of cider vinegar &
- one cup of sugar and
- one banana peel

Hang the bottle from a tree limb near to the hives and observe the effective results within days.

This is a tried and true, pesticide free method for dealing with the problem of wax moth invasion.

BECOME A PART OF RIBA'S DYNAMIC GROWTH!

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR A RIBA COMMITTEE TO HELP GROW AND IMPROVE OUR ORGANIZATION. THIS IS A CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORLD OF BEEKEEPING WHILE SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL ORGANIZATION.

DON'T MISS THE OCTOBER ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER

The annual Fall Harvest dinner will take place on Sunday October 7 at The Pines Banquet facility, 1204 Pound Hill Road, North Smithfield, RI. 12:00PM until 4:30PM. Tickets are \$20, paid in advance to Christine Dwyer; there will be NO payment at the door. The guest speaker will be Dr. James Tew of Auburn University in Alabama (see bio p. 11).

In addition to the lecture and dinner, a silent raffle will be held coordinated by Christine Dwyer Contact: ChrisDwyer29@cox.net and consider a donation of items that can be raffled off for the benefit of our association. The number of raffle items will be limited so please drop off your donations before the dinner at Chris or Celeste's home. Contact Chris for further information. And thank you for your generosity.

LOOK FOR RIBA ON FACEBOOK & YAHOO

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/ribeekeeper>

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/ribeekeeper>

The RIBA Quarterly Newsletter wants to improve education for beekeepers & public understanding of the importance of honey bees; send your ideas & suggestions to the editor: cfluehr@ric.edu

Fall Dinner Speaker

Dr. James E. Tew will speak on “Living with Bee Questions that don’t have Clear Answers”.

Dr. Tew is currently the Beekeeping Specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University. Before retiring in 2011, Dr. Tew served as the State Extension Beekeeping Specialist at The Ohio State University for 34 years. Since 1975, Jim has taught classes, provided extension services, and conducted applied research on honey bees and honey bee behavior - specifically pollination behavior. Additionally, he continues to contribute monthly articles for national beekeeping publications and has written: *Beekeeping Principles* and *Backyard Beekeeping*. Jim writes for *Bee Culture* as well. He is a frequent speaker at state and national meetings and has traveled extensively to observe beekeeping techniques.

Jim has five grandkids who keep him spry and active. For enjoyment, he woodworks, photographs, and feeds ungrateful birds. He can be reached at: tew_bee2@gmail.com, <http://twitter.com/onetewbee>, and <http://www.facebook.com/tewbee2>



HONEY RECIPE



No-Bake Energy Bites Recipe

(from Jeff McGuire)

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (dry) oatmeal (I used old-fashioned oats)
 - 2/3 cup toasted coconut flakes
 - 1/2 cup peanut butter
 - 1/2 cup ground flaxseed or wheat germ
 - 1/2 cup chocolate chips (optional)
 - 1/3 cup honey
 - 1 tsp. vanilla
- Method:

Stir all ingredients together in a medium bowl until thoroughly mixed. Let chill in the refrigerator for half an hour. Once chilled, roll into balls of whatever size you would like. (Mine were about 1" in diameter.) Store in an airtight container and keep refrigerated for up to 1 week.

Makes about 20-25 balls.

RIBA MEMBERS WHO SELL BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Cottage Industry Apiary

Louis J. Chasse II, 295-0888

31 years RI manufactured fine woodenware with a 2009 price

Beehavin' Apiaries

Everett Zurlinden

Honey, Bees, Beekeeping supplies

beehavin.com or everett@beehavin.com

225 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 401-885-5172

Note: The Executive Board has established a standard fee of \$25 per newsletter for a business card size advertisement in the Newsletter, beginning with the next issue. Other relevant ads will be accepted in future issues.

RIBA IS AN ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION— PLEASE FILL OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE BACK PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER AND FIND A WAY TO CONTRIBUTE AS A VOLUNTEER TO YOUR ONLY BEEKEEPING ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE AND REGION THANK YOU!



RI Beekeepers' Association

We're on the Web!

www.ribeekeeper.org

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Headline

First Survey of RIBA Members (due to poor response asking you to help RIBA know more about its members (Please bring completed survey to the next meeting or email to cfluehr@ric.edu, Thank you!)

Did you take a beekeeping course(s) with RIBA? _____ What year(s)? _____

How long have you been keeping bees? _____

How many hives do you maintain? _____

In which location(s)? _____

What percentage of hives did you lose, if any, in the last year? _____

If you could invent a job that would help RIBA, what would it be? _____

Ideas for Speakers? _____

Are you willing to volunteer a small amount of time to RIBA? _____