

The Joy of Skeps

(The RIBA Newsletter)

December 2018

Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course and Conference 2018, Providence, RI

As many of you know, the 22nd Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course and Conference (CMACC) made its debut in Providence RI this past fall. Following two years of presentations in Redondo Beach, CA, this was very exciting to those of us on the East coast!

The conference, presented by the American Apitherapy Society (AAS), was held at the beautiful Hotel Providence in the heart of the arts and theater district of our beloved capitol city. It was extremely well received. Guests included 63 participants from all over the country and other parts of the world, 13 AAS faculty members and 5 guest speakers. Local news WJAR 10 covered the event in a short television segment, further adding to the “buzz” of excitement!



-photo by Tina McDonald

Apitherapy, or “bee therapy” is the medicinal use of products made by honeybees and it includes bee venom, honey, pollen, royal jelly, propolis, and beeswax. All products of the hive work synergistically, and can be used in combination to individualize treatment to best achieve desired results. As beekeepers using and sharing these valuable and potent products, it is so important that we preserve the quality of our bee products while above all maintaining the health and prosperity of our colonies.

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It is always interesting to note that although about half of participants are beekeepers, the remaining participants represent those who value and use the medicine of the bees without getting up close and personal with them. They include homeopaths, healers, herbalists, activists, doctors, functional/integrative medicine practitioners, therapists, acupuncturists, and/or recipients/practitioners of bee venom therapy. Wayne Andrews generously provided an observation hive so that everyone felt the presence of the bees while learning about their gifts during the conference. Recurrent themes throughout the meeting included obtaining quality products from the hive, purchasing products from reputable sources, and knowing your beekeeper's processes and ethics when sourcing these valuable medicinal bee products.

The conference covered a variety of subjects presented to the group as a whole, such as the latest apitherapy research projects and articles, informed consent and legal issues, adverse reactions and case studies. There were also breakout sessions offering 2 levels to best serve those new to apitherapy, as well as those returning and more experienced participants. Interestingly, a group of bee inspectors from MDAR (Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources) were included in the familiar sea of faces from RI and nearby MA learning about apitherapy and expanding their knowledge. Further sessions included demonstrations on the subjects of honey and wound care, how-to make propolis lip balm, and lotion/shampoo prep among others. The flow of the weekend was relaxed but well organized, with a wealth of information and experiences being shared.

This year rotating practical sessions were introduced, allowing more participants hands-on experiences in small group settings. The sessions were all related to bee venom therapy (BVT) and included: BVT test sting, micro stinging technique, compassionate BVT and BVT for pain management/sports injuries. It was very exciting personally to see compassionate BVT presented for the first time at CMACC by Renae Barton. This is a technique that a small group of us in RI/MA practice with the intent to cause no harm to the bee and return her to the hive following the sting. It was beautifully presented to an intent audience eager to learn more about this bee-centric technique.

Melanie Kirby, Apiculturist from Washington State University offered a passionate and informative presentation focusing on the health of honeybees themselves, and improving genetics and longevity of

colonies. Her experiences and research projects, both hers and her colleagues was riveting. She also presented a second program on the subject of oregano for pollinator and human health. Please check out www.bees.wsu.edu for more information about their cutting edge research. I was so jazzed to win a jar of Melanie's oregano honey donated to the bee-themed auction! Yum!

One of the ultimate highlights of the conference was definitely guest speaker Nika Pengel from Slovenia who presented on massage with honey as a detoxification technique. She presented the fascinating history of beekeeping in Slovenia and also provided a wonderful demonstration on the various techniques to detoxify the body using raw honey. Fellow beekeeper and Massage Therapist Cyndi Moriarty volunteered to help demo the technique as her willing recipient (lucky girl!). Apitherapy vendors were also available selling their wares throughout the conference; I definitely left with my wallet a little lighter, but with many high-quality bee-related items, including an electric propolis air purifier for my home (alright, and one for my car). I hope you will check out the AAS website at www.apitherapy.org, possibly become a member of the organization, as well as consider attending a future CMACC conference--I do not think you will be disappointed!



-Tina McDonald, RN, AAS board member, RI beekeeper

Proposed Changes to Massachusetts Bee Keeping Regulations

On March 31, 2015, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker issued Executive Order #562 commissioning a complete and comprehensive review of all existing Executive Branch regulations.

The Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), during their review of regulations pertaining to livestock, decided to revise the current regulations regarding apiaries. The revision process requires MDAR to draft a revised regulation and initiate a process of soliciting comments from stakeholders; in this case, Massachusetts beekeepers.

The draft regulations contain a number of proposed changes that Massachusetts beekeepers object to. The original draft called for: 1) mandatory registration of all beehives in the state, 2) that MDAR be notified of all shipments of bees coming into Massachusetts, that each container of bees be marked with the name and address of their destination, and that each shipment carry a certificate of inspection within 90 days prior, 3) that beekeepers notify MDAR of any instance of honey bee disease within their colonies, 4) bee suppliers and county associations must maintain, for at least 3 years, name and address records of the destination apiary of all bees sold in the state. There were a number of other minor revisions, but those are the sticking points.

After 2 years of listening sessions and draft revisions, some improvements were made, but the mandatory registration requirement remained, although it was changed to require registration of each apiary location rather than each hive. A large number of Massachusetts beekeepers oppose the

mandatory registration requirement, some from the standpoint of privacy, some oppose government intervention into their hobbies, and some believe that this will lead to fees and taxes being imposed on beekeepers.

The Massachusetts Beekeepers Association (MassBee) felt that it was time to bring this to a higher level.

Based on input he received, MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux called a meeting regarding the proposed apiary regulations. Invited were MassBee officers, county association presidents, and some prominent commercial beekeepers. The meeting was held on Nov. 7, 2018 at the MDAR office in Boston. This meeting was requested by Commissioner Lebeaux to address strong objection to the proposed apiary regulations from beekeepers. It was different from the previous listening sessions - it was a smaller group and discussion was more focused. We ran through the draft regulations section by section, and Commissioner Lebeaux noted our concerns.

These are my notes as observed at the meeting:

Points made by the beekeepers:

- Inspection/requiring certificates of inspection of bees coming into the state is good because it keeps the quality up and keeps suppliers on their toes. We don't want Massachusetts to be a dumping ground for substandard bees because we're not looking.
- Mandatory registration will force many beekeepers to go "underground", that is, not register, not ask for inspections, and hide their apiaries from sight. This will make it harder for MDAR to trace or attempt to mitigate a disease outbreak. It will also undermine the inspection program.
- The inspection program has improved, but we would like to see it made more efficient by scheduling inspections in local areas rather than have inspectors zig-zagging across the state. We'd also like to go back to a more "beekeeper-friendly" style where recommendations are made and beekeepers are educated during the inspection.
- Clubs/suppliers do record who the packages/nucs are sold to, but keeping the records available for 3 years is not necessary. Disease can really only be attributed to the source in the first year; after that, it is the owner's issue
- MDAR needs to explain the benefits of the inspection program and of registration (even if it's voluntary).
- There is a trust issue for beekeepers; they don't want the government involved if there's no benefit. People are afraid of fees being imposed later on once we're all registered.
- In the absence of registration, county associations must be willing to work with MDAR to identify apiaries if a disease outbreak is noted.
- "Honey Bee Disease" was defined as any affliction, including viruses. It is not practical to expect that beekeepers will report viruses like DWV, etc. or infections like Nosema to MDAR. However, it is reasonable to request that people report highly contagious disease like AFB or EFB.
- It is not practical to expect that bees coming in to the state will be marked with the name of the recipient.
- It was suggested that a program to inspect all hives in the state, instead of registration, might go over better with beekeepers. This would require staffing changes.

Those are the main points. There were other small things and edits suggested.

Points made by MDAR:

- There is no desire or intent to tax or charge fees to beekeepers. The process requires meetings, hearings, etc., and the money would not benefit the apiary program. There are no plans to do this. (I told him that we want written assurance of that to convince the skeptics).

- MDAR recognizes the value of honey bees to the state's agriculture, and wants to do all they can to protect them and insure their health. (I believe that he was sincere).
- The state wants to keep bees in the agriculture/livestock "category". (Many agreed that they belong there).
- MDAR wants to make the inspection program work for all of us. This will be reviewed.

The Commissioner could not guarantee that these points would be adopted but he did promise to review them with the team. Any changes would go through a public hearing before moving on. He advised us that this process will take time, and a final regulation is still in the distance.

Personally, I think he heard how strongly we feel about mandatory registration, and I think it will go away. But that's just my feeling. I think it was a productive meeting, much more so than the listening sessions. We now have a stronger connection directly to Commissioner Lebeaux on this, and that should help. This will be an ongoing process and will not likely be resolved any time soon. Updates will be provided along the way

-Ed Szymanski

Beekeeper's Almanac

There's really only one word to describe this fall: WET. According to wpri.com, "Not only is it the second wettest November on record, it's the second wettest fall (Sept 1-Nov 30) on record and the 3rd wettest year on record in RI." November only saw a single day's snowfall with any real accumulation to speak of, with approximately 5" falling here in Johnston on the 15th.



Beekeepers are hopefully completing their final tasks for the winter. Typically this means: combining weak hives, feeding light hives, applying a late season mite treatment, installing mouseguards, and insulating/wrapping hives. There is always a great deal of debate about whether to insulate, whether to wrap, the best way to apply winter feed, etc. My personal feeling is that if your colony is healthy and the cluster is big enough, wrapping/insulating will not make or break your hive. We have had winter success with every possible combination of wrapped/unwrapped, screened bottom open/closed, single deep/double deep, and other variables. The key points were that the bees were healthy and had

adequate food within reach. I do recommend replacing your inner cover with a piece of homosote (available at Home Depot, but not Lowe's for some reason) to trap condensation from dripping back down onto the cluster. It's cheap and reusable year after year.



Nov 1 Entrance Activity - Mouse guard is in place. Some drones are still present, as are yellow jackets attempting to gain entrance to the hive. Pollen in multiple shades of yellow/orange is still being gathered.

Some early reports of winter deadouts are already trickling in. Mite counts that outpaced beekeepers' control efforts are the prime suspect. It is very important to remember to seal up all entrances to deadouts as soon as they are discovered to prevent the spread of pests and pathogens. Be a good neighbor!

Meeting Recaps

10/28/18 Fall Banquet, Quiddesett Country Club, North Kingstown, RI. Our guest speaker was Dan Conlon, of Warm Colors Apiary in Deerfield, MA. Dan is also President of the Russian Queen Breeders Association. His topic was "Fall/Winter Management" and was a great general overview, but also informed by his specific circumstances dealing with Russian bees. He states that varroa is the #1 reason for colony losses and require treatment 3-4 times per year.

"Winter colonies with a new queen, large populations, highly nutritious food stores, and reduced varroa/nosema levels have a 90% probability of surviving winter," according to Dan. Some of his tips for successful overwintering include requeening in August, not Fall, so that the winter bees will be related to the new queen. This enhances winter survival. He feeds dry Bee-Pro pollen substitute in yard feeders when protein is scarce, but also pointed out that real honey and pollen help bees detoxify, and substitutes don't have this immune boosting power. He noted that this was an especially bad year for robbing in his area. To combat this he keeps hives closed, doesn't leave syrup out, and has his entrances reduced. He also tries to have his final inspections done before goldenrod is finished blooming (around sometime in September in his area).

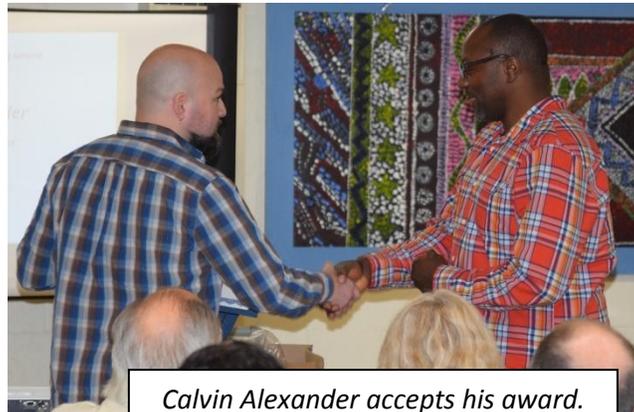
11/11/18 General Membership Meeting, Coventry, RI. This RIBA meeting began with the voting in of the officers for the year. All positions were uncontested. Keith Salisbury remains President. A big THANK YOU goes out to Lori Dobson who is stepping down after six years as Treasurer, and Malinda Coletta after two years as Vice President. Congratulations to Scott Langlais, who will be taking over as Vice President, and Paul Tremblay stepping up as Treasurer come January. Steve Burke returns as Secretary, and Dr Jane Dennison remains Member-at-Large.

Mary Duane, EAS Master Beekeeper from Massachusetts then gave an excellent presentation on how to prepare for a honey show. The main points she came back to time and time again when participating in a honey show are to read the rules before entering, know the rules, and follow the rules. She also gave useful tips on making the best presentation possible. Bringing a clean cap along to put on the jar just before submitting prevents points off for a dirty lid. A squirt of Windex to clean your jar just before submission prevents points off for smudges on the container. She urged the audience to make sure when presenting any product, whether it be honey, wax, or anything else, that it is clean, free of debris or dirt, and consistent in color. Mary also encouraged everybody at the meeting to enter honey contests as they are both fun and an educational opportunity.

-Cindy Holt

12/09/18 General Membership Meeting/Holiday Social, Coventry, RI. Our annual holiday social included honey judging, members' marketplace, year-end awards, and a presentation by Betty Mencucci. President Keith Salisbury was still recuperating from his surgery so we dispensed with the business portion of the meeting. Keith presented awards (by proxy) to the following:

- *Newbee of the Year:* Ed Szymanski
- *Nurse Bee of the Year :* Calvin Alexander
- *Winter Bee of the Year:* Glenn Lawton
- *Worker Bee of the Year:* Ann Bissonnette & Lynn Carlson
- *Volunteer of the Year:* The Shepherd Family
- *Beekeeper of the Year:* Sara Michaud, Cindy Holt, & Scott Langlais



*Calvin Alexander accepts his award.
-photo by Emily Langlais*

Demonstrating the spirit that makes this organization great, Cindy graciously demurred from accepting her award and called Emily Langlais up to receive it in recognition for all of her (largely) behind the scenes work.

Betty Mencucci wrapped the meeting up with an excellent recap of the 2018 EAS conference in Norfolk, VA. Betty has been attending EAS for the past 30 years and offers a unique perspective on this annual event. Randy Oliver's several talks were clearly a highlight for her, as well as the histories provided by Wyatt Mangum and Michael Young. Her presentation perfectly encapsulated the scope of the event, both the conference proper, as well as the "extracurricular" outings planned around it. Next year's EAS will be held July 15-19 in Greenville, South Carolina.

HONEY SHOW WINNERS

Light Amber

1. Dane Pursley
2. Calvin Alexander
3. Erik Mikkelsen

Amber

1. Calvin Alexander
2. Dr Jane Dennison
3. Ian Shepherd

Dark Amber

1. Lily Bogosian
2. Dr Jane Dennison
3. Dane Pursley

Black Jar

1. ?
2. ?
3. Sara Michaud/Dane Pursley (tie)



Pollinator Monitoring at ExxonMobil

In the fall of 2017, Justin Carr (Terminal Superintendent) and Elena Antonakos (Northeast Field Environmental Advisor), from the ExxonMobil facility in East Providence reached out to our president, Keith Salisbury, to seek advice about planting for honey bees as well as other pollinators. The intent was to add pollinator habitats to an already existing program of maintaining and monitoring osprey nests on the facility site in order to obtain a Wildlife Habitat Council Certification <http://www.wildlifehc.org>. I made site visits in October 2017 during and after which I made recommendations to help them get started. In addition to advice given on what to plant, I urged them to survey the vegetation on one particular site for a year to see what was actually growing and if was of any benefit to local pollinator populations.

Fast forward to this year: through my business, *Little Rhody Beekeeping*, I have been assisting ExxonMobil not just with monitoring vegetation, but also in creating educational signage, developing a pollinator monitoring program to count pollinators as well as identifying and cataloging observed species. ExxonMobil installed a pollinator garden and educational signs that run along the East Bay bike path. They are also looking to enrich the environment of the other site by adding more pollinator friendly native plants and maintaining it thereafter.



I hope to expand upon this program in order to find more sites in Rhode Island willing to make a portion of their properties pollinator friendly. By monitoring the diversity of species and populations in this area, I'm hopefully building a body of data to help experts predict population trends and inform pollinator conservation efforts in the future.

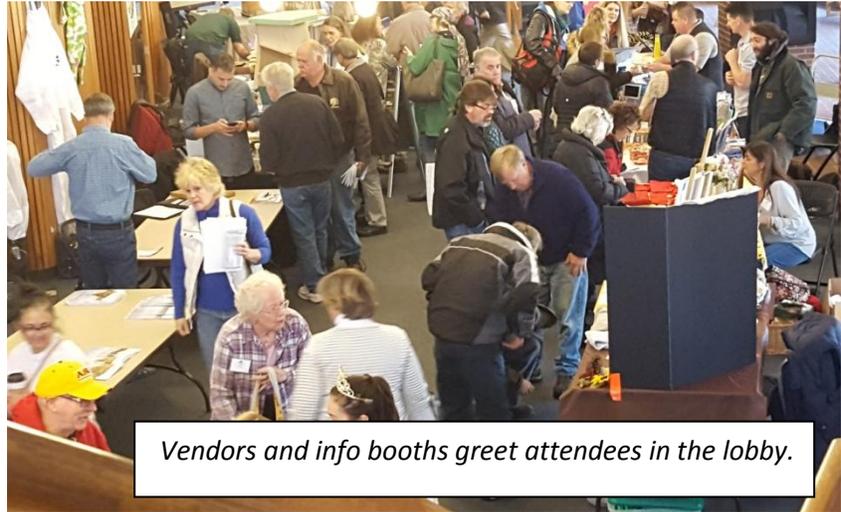
-Cindy Holt



A sample of the native pollinators observed during a July pollinator audit at the East Providence facility.

Mass Bee Fall Meeting

The Mass Bee fall meeting was held November 17 at Bristol Community College in Fall River, MA. Doors opened at 8am with coffee and pastries available during check in. Vendors on hand included Mann Lake, Betterbee, American Apicultural Society, MDAR, and others. After opening remarks from Mass



Vendors and info booths greet attendees in the lobby.

Bee president Peter Delany, the first speaker of the day was Ann Harmon, giving an overview of honey shows. Ann is well known as a monthly contributor to Bee Culture, and was among the judges of the meeting's honey show. The main point she emphasized was that a honey show is an opportunity for you to improve the presentation, consistency, and marketability of your products. As beekeepers, we take for granted that wax flakes floating in honey aren't a problem and sticky jars are commonplace, but to a consumer, these can be perceived as dirty, inferior products. Bees make beautiful and clean products, "it takes a beekeeper to muck it up." She ran briefly through the common requirements for the major categories in a honey show – liquid, chunk, comb, creamed honey, wax blocks, candles, and more. An interesting tip she shared was to strain beeswax through sweatshirt material, fuzzy side up, to strain out debris and impurities.



Dr. Jamie Ellis

Next up was Dr Jamie Ellis (University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology) giving the first of his two talks of the day, on bee reproduction at the individual (queen) level and colony level (swarming). Ellis is an excellent and engaging speaker, combining the scientific acumen of one of the top entomologists in the country with the delivery of a southern Baptist minister (which is another of the titles he possesses). We saw this same talk at EAS in

Virginia in August, but it was no less entertaining the second time around. There wasn't much in the way of new information presented but as an overview of bee reproduction it would be hard to surpass. Few speakers can convey complex scientific information in such an accessible and understandable way. The main takeaway for me from this talk is that literally everything that occurs within a colony is towards the

goal of that colony swarming, ie reproducing itself. We often tend to put individual behaviors or situations under a magnifying glass and lose sight of this bigger picture.

Dr Sam Ramsey of the University of Maryland also spoke twice over the course of the day. His first presentation was an examination of his truly groundbreaking discoveries into the behavior of varroa mites. Ramsey's PHD research jettisoned the previous 30+ years of assumptions about varroa. Much of what we thought we knew was based on assumptions and a potentially poorly translated early paper initially published in Russian. Ramsey was able to demonstrate that varroa do not feed on hemolymph (bee blood) as previously thought, but actually feed on fat bodies, an organ analogous to the bee's liver.



Dr. Sam Ramsey

Three key findings informed his conclusion. First, the waste and digestive system of varroa is not consistent with a creature that feeds primarily on blood. Second, an examination of the evolutionary relatedness of other mites shows varroa are as distantly related to blood-feeders as possible, while still being mites. Finally, if varroa feed on blood, we would expect to see them feeding from essentially any point on an adult bee's body, since they could access the hemolymph from practically any point. Instead, over 95% of mites feeding on adult bees were observed feeding on the underside of the abdomen, wedged between sternite plates. This is a necessarily abbreviated version of his fascinating story, recounted with the pacing of a good mystery novel.

So why is this discovery so important? Fat body is an extremely important organ with a wide range of functions, including but not limited to: nutrient storage, detoxification, immune functions, temperature regulation, and metamorphosis. It is where vitellogenin is created and stored, a critical requirement for the survival of overwintering bees. This new knowledge sheds light on how important proper timing of a mite treatment is; a single winter treatment may kill a large number of mites, but your winter bees will already be compromised by then. These findings may also lead to new mite treatments better targeted toward the mites' specific biology, and Dr Ramsey did indeed note that efforts to "weaponize" this data are already underway.

Fat Body

- Growth & Metamorphosis
- Storage & Energy/Nutrient Mobilization
- Pesticide Detoxification
- Water Loss/Osmoregulation
- Immune Function
- Temperature Regulation
- Metabolic Activity
- Protein & Fat Synthesis
- Vitellogenesis



Jamie Ellis retook the podium for his second talk, "Are Honey Bees Really Dying," recounting some of his personal history as an entomologist during the period when Colony Collapse Disorder came to prominence. Following Dr Ramsey's lead,

several popular myths about honey bees were examined and shown to be misleading at best. For instance, the oft-cited quotation commonly attributed to Einstein that “If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left to live” is not only unlikely to have been uttered by Einstein, but would also not have such dire consequences for mankind. The reason for this is that the majority of fruits and vegetables pollinated by honey bees are what are classified as “specialty crops.” These crops provide the color, variety, and nutrition on our plates but it is doubtful we would perish without them. Yearly reported colony losses were a source of alarming, but misleading, statistics. The key here is the distinction between gross and net losses. While gross losses may be 30% or more depending on year and location, beekeepers since 2006 (the year CCD “emerged”) have actually only suffered a 1.3% net loss yearly. This is because beekeepers use several techniques to replace or add to loss hives, such as splits, catching swarms, or buying packages.

He recommends the Honey Bee Health Coalition’s “[Tools for Varroa Management](#)” as the best guide for varroa. “If you are not killing varroa, varroa are killing your bees—period.”

Sam Ramsey ended the speaking portion of the day’s events with a presentation of his investigations into the tropilaelaps mite. This pest has not taken up residence on North American shores..yet. Primarily found in Asia where *Apis cerana* is its natural host, it has also adapted (much like varroa), to parasitize *Apis mellifera*. Although similar to varroa in many ways, it also exhibits several traits that may make it an even more virulent pest than varroa. *Tropilaelaps* is smaller, faster, and has a shorter phoretic phase than varroa. It has developed rapid resistance to pesticides due in part to an extremely rapid reproductive phase. Like varroa, it has the ability to transmit deformed wing virus (DWV), black queen cell virus (BQCV), and maybe more. Ramsey feels it is just a matter of time before *tropilaelaps* breaches American shores, so his studies are an attempt at a proactive response. His university funding for this research, which was undertaken in Thailand, fell through. He is currently running a GoFundMe campaign to try to raise the additional funds. See <http://www.gofundme.com/fundhoneybeereseach> for more info.

Recipes From the Hive

Susan Medyn’s Honey Bourbon Liqueur

- 1 cup honey
- 1/2 cup water
- 3-inch piece of orange zest, remove the pith as much as possible
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 1 tsp. golden raisins (optional)
- 3 cups bourbon (You can substitute vodka if you prefer.)

Heat first 5 ingredients over medium heat until honey is fully dissolved. Simmer gently for 5 minutes. Remove any white scum as it comes to the surface with a slotted spoon. Remove from heat and cool. Once cool, remove orange zest and cinnamon stick. Add bourbon to syrup. Stir gently. Feel free to taste.

Use a sterilized mason jar or glass jar. Fill and cover tightly. Shake once and let sit for 3 days. Raisins will increase the sweetness if left in too long, so it is a good idea to remove after 3 days. Eat raisins or use in baking. Bourbon can be stored for up to 1 year unrefrigerated, but you likely will have drunk it by then!

Great mixed with apple cider for a nice autumn drink or all by itself. Enjoy!

-Susan Medyn

Frederique Keller's Propolis Salve/Lip Balm/Suppository Formula

16 oz extra virgin olive oil (other base oils can be combined)
6 oz pure beeswax
1 Tbsp raw honey
1Tbsp propolis powder
1/2 tsp rosemary extract
1/2 tsp lavender essential oil
1/2 tsp tea tree essential oil

Essential oils may be varied according to properties and flavor. Please do not use fragrance! Use less beeswax for a softer consistency.

Melt beeswax in olive oil in double boiler. Set up all the lip balm trays or pots. To prevent scalding, let mixture cool down, then add all ingredients with essential oils last. Use stick blender to evenly distribute. Pour quickly and carefully into tubes or pots. Let completely cool before capping. Makes 100 lip balm tubes, or 25 1oz pots.

Amelia Moody's Propolis Lip Balm

16 oz carrier oil
4 oz (or more) pesticide free beeswax
4 oz cocoa butter
2 Tbsp raw honey
10mL (2 tsp) propolis extract

Pour the measured oil into a stainless steel or glassware container than can be heated. Double boil this container in a water bath in larger vessel. Warm the oil infusion adding small pieces of beeswax over low heat until wax is fully melted. Add propolis and other optional additions.



-photo by Tina McDonald

Dip metal spoon in warm mixture and place spoon in freezer so salve sample cools quickly. The hardened salve on the spoon allows you to test the consistency. You can then add more wax if the sample is too soft or add a little more oil if sample is too hard.

If adding small amount of raw honey, consider mixing it in after removing from heat, as to maintain the raw enzymatic benefits. If adding essential oils, remember less is more with these concentrated volatile oils. Some can cause irritation to skin and mucosa. Add essential oils after removing from heat so as to not evaporate the essential oils.

Carrier oil options: apricot, almond, coconut, grape, olive, sesame, sunflower, walnut, cocoa butter, shea butter. Botanicals to infuse oils: calendula, lavender, plantain, rosemary.

-The two preceding recipes come from the Charles Mraz Apitherapy Conference, courtesy of Dr Jane Dennison.

News

-Congratulations to RIBA members **Dan Messier** and **Ashley Rutan** on the birth of their first child, Leo Randolph Messier, born 12/8/2018.

-Brushy Mountain Bee Farm unexpectedly closed its doors in November. Around the same time, Mann Lake bought out Kelly Beekeeping. It's not yet known what the future may hold for these companies, but it looks like beekeepers have two fewer choices as far as suppliers go.

-Dr Kirsten Traynor has stepped down as Editor of American Bee Journal. As she recounts in her FreeBee email newsletter: "I took the job with great enthusiasm, because I care deeply for this industry and thought I could act as a bridge between science and practice." Apparently there were internal clashes over the editorial process that led to Dr Traynor's decision. "A magazine aimed at beekeepers is of course not a peer reviewed publication. But as a scientist, I can't be editor in name only and not have the right, as A.I. Root put it so eloquently, to reject things when I know they contain scientific inaccuracies." Dr Traynor was the guest speaker at our November 2017 meeting.

-2019 RIBA Calendars debuted at the December meeting and will be available again in person at the January member meeting. The cost is \$15 and they contain RIBA members' photos as well as a selection of tips and reminders for every month.



Spring Package/Nuc Sales

Angela Roell/Yard Bird Farm is currently taking orders and deposits for 2019 nucs. “You can support local beekeeping, diversified genetic stock and survivor queens by purchasing your nucleus from me and my collaborators.” The queens are survivor stock Russian and Carniolan breeder queens who have overwintered successfully in the Northeast.

A nucleus hive will be made of five frames total: two frames of brood, a frame of food (honey and pollen) and a frame of draw wax. There will be a newly mated queen and 3+ frames of bees.

For more info see: <https://angelaroell.com/nucleus-hive-order-form-2018-19/?fbclid=IwAR0x0nwA7Gxb5xJ5UmoxLqLpVGumFVnYhMoz6bBpSv5Xi-nXEXOrISHOp04>

Upcoming Events

January 13, 2019 – General Membership Meeting
Guy Lefebvre Community Center, 1277 Main St, Coventry, RI 02816
Speaker: Max Weagle, Worcester County Beekeepers Association
“Monitoring Hive Temperatures in Winter”

February 10, 2019—General Membership Meeting
Guy Lefebvre Community Center, 1277 Main St, Coventry, RI 02816
Speaker: Matthew J. Tetzner, Johnson & Wales University
“Cooking With Honey” demo

March 10, 2019—General Membership Meeting
Guy Lefebvre Community Center, 1277 Main St, Coventry, RI 02816
Speaker: Angela Roell, Yard Bird Farm, Montague, MA
“Apiary Planning”

Happy Holidays!