



Bee Culture

APRIL 1993

1.9.9.3

WHO'S WHO
THE DIRECTORY OF NORTH
AMERICAN BEEKEEPING

GETTING THERE
THE BASICS OF
POLLINATION BUSINESS

GEORGIA
ON MY MIND
PEACH STATE
BEEKEEPING IS GREAT

THE BRAMBLES
PRICKLY PLANTS,
PERFECT HONEY



A p r

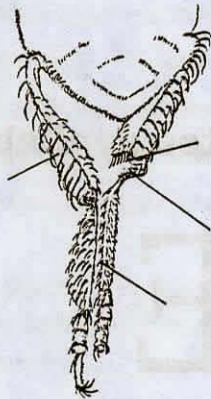
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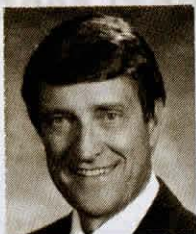
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FEATURES

The Fateful Sting

An allergic reaction to a honey bee sting can occur at anytime, to anyone - even tried & true beekeepers. Know the symptoms, and know what to do. (by Steve Beach) 200



Cover

Brambles furnish a wonderful crop for bees and beekeepers, and the berries are only frosting on the cake. (Flottum photo)



Getting There

If you're moving bees for pollination this spring there are some common sense rules to follow. Have good colonies, and move them very carefully. (by Richard Bonney) 204

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Brambles, whether blackberries, raspberries, marionberries, loganberries, boysenberries or youngberries are all excellent sources of nectar and pollen for bees, and honey and fruit for beekeepers. (by B.A. Stringer) 211

Bring It On Home

Once a colony has swarmed, the challenge lies in obtaining control. Some thoughts on how to go about this task. (by Jeff Ott) 216

March Photo Credit

There were two remarkable photos on the cover of the March issue. The Tracheal mite photo was taken by Tom Webster from KY State University. The larger photo of bees in cells was taken by Randy Knotts, from Liberty, MO.

Georgia On My Mind

Georgia is *almost* all things to all beekeepers. Take a look at the Peach state from North to South and from spring to fall - honey production, queen and package bees and even pollination - it's all in Georgia, and almost all of it's in May. (by Dr. Keith Delaplane) 207

What Did I Do Last Time?

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Who's Who In North American Beekeeping 1993

The Only Directory Of Its Kind - A 12 Page Removable Center Section.

INNER·COVER

There's a proverb, of African origin I believe, that says, 'It takes an entire village to raise a child'. Our society, it seems, too often loses sight of the simplicity of this message. Rather, we focus on building bureaucracies, diluting responsibilities and a committee is held accountable for the outcome. But what of the village? And what of the child?

This isn't a commentary on family values or the education system we have built. But with the threatened, and possibly imminent withdrawal of the government's subsidy and loan program for honey, *our* entire village will be drawn into the fray, and each and every child therein will feel the effects.

Of course efforts of Herculean proportions are underway in Washington by industry members wishing to maintain the status quo. But the Federal powers-that-be have been trying to abolish this subsidy since Eisenhower was President, so far without success. They may be victorious this time, though. However, I want to discuss the details of this entire program at length and with vigor next month, after diligent preparation.

For now, there are more immediate concerns that directly relate to preparation in the event industry lobbyists do not succeed. More importantly, preparing for what many would consider a crisis is sound policy for any business or enterprise. The Boy Scouts are right - Be Prepared.

So for the sake of argument let's operate under the provision that the headline in this morning's paper read something like "USDA CANCELS ENTIRE HONEY PROGRAM EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY"

This hits this season's honey crop right between the eyes. No loan program would be available for honey not even harvested.

For beekeepers not subscribing to government grace this may seem a trifle, and not worthy of worry. For others it is a call to arms. Sadly, for some it is an obituary.

But no matter your involvement in this industry, all will feel the effects - every honey producer (commercial, sideline or hobbyist), every producer/packer, every packer, importer, equipment manufacturer, publisher, researcher, the Honey Board, financial institutions dealing with the industry, every queen and package producer... everybody.

You think not? Do you believe our entire village won't feel the result? Think again.

As a worst case, follow along

Next fall, when commercial producers have lots of honey (and this season hold lots of promise), they will also have debt, operating expenses, capital expenses and no loan program to move honey into, and money out of. So, the crop will get sold by those who need instant cash. At what price? Good question. Probably not \$.60/lb., or \$.55, or even \$.50/lb. If enough producers panic the market becomes overwhelmed, leaving packers with two choices - buy low and store (tying up their cash and incurring storage costs), or stop buying.

Meanwhile, producers less anxious hold out, hoping for... well, hoping. But not forever. Soon, they too will sell. Again, at what price? And to whom?

Meanwhile, producer's operating and expansion resources dwindle, so fewer supplies are purchased, causing

equipment and bee businesses to raise prices to compensate. And all sorts of people are laid off

It's a domino effect, you see. And everybody is affected. The subsidy and loan program were designed to avoid this harvest-time chaos, and it works pretty well, it seems.

Remember, this is a very simplified worst case scenario. And it is a worst case. This industry, sans subsidy, could, and probably would thrive without it. We don't need to be underwritten by a bureaucracy. Even so, there is a good chance it won't go away until *next* year anyway, regardless of pressures from friends or foes. If you're a gambler you may bet that an orderly exit will occur. In fact, you can bet the whole farm on it, literally (just don't bet mine). But regardless when (and if) the demise descends, packers and producers will have to work together or both will hurt. Financial institutions will need to better understand our form of agriculture. Big packers and little packers must look at their similarities and differences

Our village *must* care for each child or each child will surely die. And then there will be no village.

Be prepared.

Kim Flottum

Save the Village.
And the Children.

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NEXT MONTH

One of the best definitions of the word May is 'The flourishing part of life', and that, certainly is what to expect next month.

May is what most of us wait for, and even if the weather (or the bees) seems a bit uncooperative, there's plenty in store in *Bee Culture* to keep you interested.

Without a doubt, removing bees from structures is taking increased importance. And, though some have neither the time or energy for the task, many are beginning to take a second look at this activity as a second income source. We'll start a two part series next month examining the how-to's and why-should's of removing bees. Even if you don't, you'll learn much about bees, beekeepers, and homeowners from 'Close Encounters'.

May is also our traditional marketing month (Be Prepared we always say), so next time there are three great pieces on the ready. If your operation is large enough to be concerned about the Federal loan and subsidy program you'll appreciate the 'Alternative Funding' piece we will feature. If cash flow is a consideration — here are some answers.

Then, besides an introductory overview of marketing in the honey industry from a fresh viewpoint, (we start where the Honey Board leaves off), we finally have a background piece on our monthly honey report. Where do those numbers come from? Why aren't they the same as in my town? Who are those reporters? We're not looking at individuals here, but at how those individuals contribute to the whole, and why our report is as good, or bad, as you thought.

Regular beekeeping is always on tap — making divides, locating apiary sites, swarming, bee biology and behavior — it's all here, 'flourishing as usual' — in May, in *Bee Culture*.

MAILBOX

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29¢
MAIL

The Editor
P.O. Box 706
Medina, OH 44256

■ Think Water Now

I have tried a lot of different ways to water my bees and keep them out of my neighbors swimming pool. I tried using sponges one time and killed a lot of bees. I found out later they use formaldehyde in making sponge rubber. Then I used burlap and also killed bees because the bags are treated for bugs and mice. In using pans with floating wood so many would drown. Then I thought of a 6-gallon cracked crock in the garage so I cut a plywood circle about 2" wide to fit the crock and covered it with aluminum screen wire. Then to make it float I took two small pill bottles the same size and wired them to the

bottom of the float. If it floats too high, just put a little water in each bottle to adjust. It took about two days for them to start using it. Now there are bees in it most of the day.

Marshall Shyne
Benton Harbor, MI

■ Curing Winter Blahs!

It is in the middle of another snow storm and continuing below-zero weather here in western New York as I write this. All the bees are snowed in, and it is tough to get into some of our outlying bee yards at all. Even the colonies on the roof of the science building on campus here are getting the brunt of the cold wind. What a wonderful window to summer I saw when the February issue of *Bee Culture* arrived. The beekeeper sitting relaxed on a hive in the middle of a pleasant summer day jotting down records looked like such a nice setting. Outside reality here is white stuff all over and the sky is gray. The sweet smells of the bee yard could almost be detected from your cover. Thank you for the winter lift.

Edward E. Southwick
Brockport, NY

■ Appreciates Balance

I am writing to comment on your magazine *Bee Culture*. It appears to me that you have been maintaining a steady improvement in the magazine as a whole. I have enjoyed the graphics and the attractive presentation of the material contained in the magazine. I am impressed on the focus of the magazine. Even though I am a purely commercial honey producer I find a good balance in the articles presented. The editorial selection of the material and the way

it is presented is interesting, refreshing and informative.

Your editorials are thought provoking and although I can't say that I agree one hundred percent with the line of thinking, I do find them challenging.

Congratulations on a constantly improving *Bee Culture* magazine.

Neil Miller
Blackfoot, ID



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We encourage letters to the Editor on any conceivable subject - previous articles, opinions, observations, information, speculation, comment or criticism.

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The Stinger Suit has an elastic waist, wrists and full foot protection. If you are dissatisfied with the foot protection, simply snip the foot guards off and use leg straps on the bottom of the leg to protect against bees.

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tured for rugged everyday hard use, but is the finest protective garment available today to keep you protected and comfortable while tending bees in light and moderate work conditions. Since the suit was introduced to the market in fall of 1992, we have sold hundreds to beekeepers and pest control specialists.

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"The Stinger Suit is quite simply the best." - Bob Dunn, FL

"I would buy every beekeeper one if I had the money!" - Martin Crowther, NY

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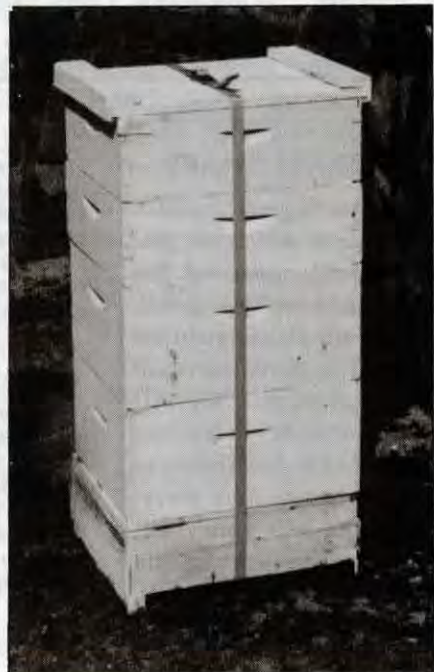
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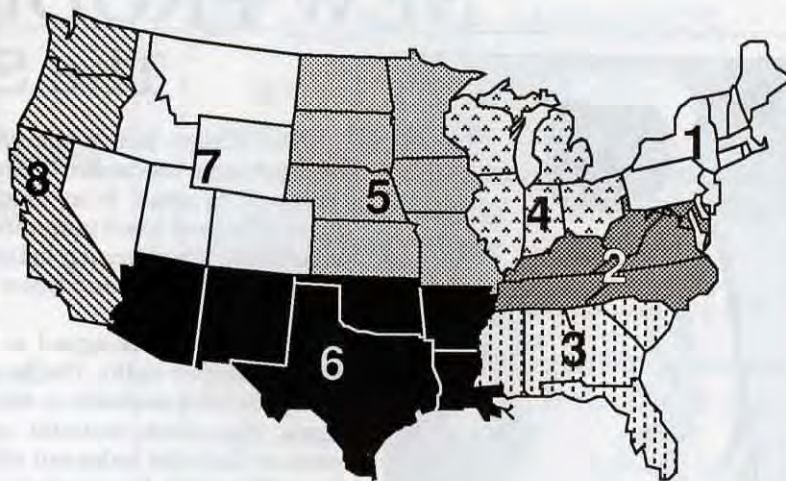


APRIL Honey Report

April 1, 1993

REPORT FEATURES

Prices shown are averages from many reporters living in a region, and reflect that region's general price structure. The Range Column lists highest and lowest prices received across all regions, from all reporters.



	Reporting Regions								Summary		History	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Range	Avg.	Last Month	Last Yr.
Extracted honey sold bulk to Packers or Processors												
Wholesale Bulk												
60 #Wh.	47.65	41.38	44.98	39.98	43.75	40.50	42.98	45.50	36.00-55.00	43.95	44.19	44.25
60 # Am.	42.16	40.00	44.40	38.42	41.19	38.50	40.44	42.00	33.00-55.00	40.84	41.43	41.46
55 gal. Wh.	.767	.566	.661	.566	.575	.550	.566	.645	.52-.85	.612	.597	.611
55 gal. Am.	.693	.505	.541	.531	.560	.511	.533	.585	.50-.75	.562	.556	.560
Wholesale - Case Lots												
1 1/2 # 24's	21.37	21.45	18.88	19.73	13.91	20.77	21.38	22.00	11.50-24.00	20.26	22.20	20.89
1 # 24's	31.37	31.11	30.60	23.40	29.57	36.78	30.36	29.67	16.80-54.00	30.96	30.70	30.01
2 # 12's	26.49	28.62	26.40	27.70	22.57	30.71	28.27	30.25	16.30-48.00	27.80	28.32	28.04
12 oz. Bears 24's	29.22	28.20	31.34	26.85	23.53	26.13	27.09	19.83	14.50-37.60	26.68	26.40	27.77
5 # 6's	33.58	27.22	29.50	31.63	27.91	28.83	27.25	26.70	23.40-33.45	29.42	30.66	31.49
Retail Honey Prices												
1/2 #	1.17	1.21	1.02	1.10	.87	1.07	1.10	1.17	.82-1.29	1.10	1.15	1.23
12 oz. Plas.	1.50	1.70	2.22	1.59	1.37	1.45	1.53	1.41	.95-2.43	1.57	1.53	1.51
1 #	1.70	1.88	1.81	1.79	1.70	1.81	1.82	1.77	1.43-2.39	1.79	1.83	1.75
2 #	3.41	3.25	2.91	2.34	2.83	3.35	3.68	3.71	2.69-3.98	4.41	3.11	2.90
3 #	4.74	4.35	4.67	4.43	3.64	3.92	4.30	4.37	3.50-5.55	4.25	4.39	4.19
4 #	5.86	5.25	5.47	5.39	5.22	4.90	5.19	5.84	4.25-6.49	5.43	5.44	5.30
5 #	7.94	6.50	6.57	6.69	5.95	6.01	6.23	6.08	4.59-8.75	6.51	6.54	6.78
1 # Cream	2.40	2.42	2.58	2.08	2.24	2.46	2.19	1.75	1.74-2.95	2.27	2.21	1.99
1 # Comb	3.41	2.68	2.91	3.33	3.03	3.18	3.29	2.79	2.00-4.95	3.07	3.12	2.82
Round Plas.	2.32	2.51	3.04	2.70	1.99	2.53	2.75	2.87	1.95-3.78	2.52	2.61	2.25
Wax (Light)	2.60	1.23	1.48	1.25	1.35	1.75	1.39	1.25	1.10-3.80	1.63	1.50	1.42
Wax (Dark)	1.60	1.10	1.22	1.10	1.11	1.45	1.17	1.13	.95-2.25	1.28	1.30	1.14
Poll./Col.	34.85	23.50	31.67	35.00	30.00	24.00	33.50	31.50	22.00-40.00	30.39	31.33	30.77

Region 5

Both sales and prices doing fairly well, probably due to the cold weather. But short crop last year means local honey in short supply. Mites, and starvation will take their toll, so watch out.

Region 6

Sales, and prices surprisingly strong, all things considered. Lots of moisture promises terrific spring flow, providing late frost doesn't cut it short. Mites, both kinds still present, and AHB still making the news.

Region 7

Sales, and prices about average for the season and pretty much unchanged. Mites not terrible, yet, anyway, and good soil moisture promises strong early flow.

Region 8

Honey sales average to a bit weak, but the real news is the pollination business. Poor weather hurt almond crop, but the shortage of bees (due to varroa primarily, but tracheal, too), also hurt. WA and OR orchardists are now feeling the pinch. Fewer colonies means less honey means...?, this fall. Stay tuned.

MARKET SHARE

The biggest problem producers will have this year is staying focused. The loan and subsidy program, free trade plans, producer/packer tensions, increased mite pressures all will draw attention - but you still need to make honey to make money. And, everyone who sells honey will need to prepare for life without loans. Financing, marketing - start now.

Region 1

Prices, especially for bulk honey increasing as local supplies disappear. Sales, however, slowing for the same reason. Mite losses expected to be as high as 30% in some areas. March storm probably didn't hurt much.

Region 2

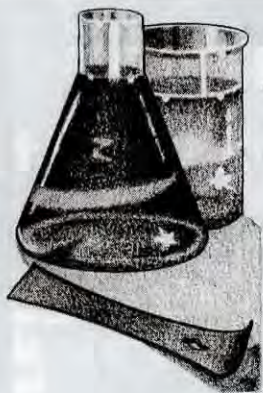
Prices and sales strong across the region, but late winter weather has set back development. March storm really put crimp in things, and cold temps have hurt, too. Mite losses expected to be light, but starvation much more a reality.

Region 3

Sales strong, even with prices soft. Anticipated citrus flow may have significant problems from storm, but too early to tell at press. Mite problems seem to have abated somewhat.

Region 4

Sales all over the map due to lots of honey available, but demand remains high due to extended cold weather. Prices variable, too, depending on location but retail looking strong. Mites a big problem, along with long confinement stress. A good spring could be off to a slow start.



RESEARCH REVIEW

roger morse cornell university ithaca ny

"Good News about those bees from Brazil."

In February I spent a week in Brazil with bee researchers, students and beekeepers. I talked to one student about his recently completed thesis on hygienic behavior in honey bees. We know Africanized honey bees in Brazil are resistant to varroa mites and now we know this is largely because of hygienic and grooming behavior. In fact, this thesis shows that the Africanized honey bees are seven times more resistant to the mites than Italian bees. The Italians used in these tests were some that were carried into Brazil from the United States by Dr. David De Jong, one of the professors under whom this study was done.

It was suggested several years ago that because worker Africanized honey bees develop in about a day less than the European honey bees that the mites did not have time to mature and that this was the reason for the resistance. While a short development time might be helpful, the student, Dr. Geraldo Moretto, reports that he has seen worker honey bees grasp and bite varroa mites. Bite marks made by worker bees could be seen on the top surfaces of the varroa mites. Moretto told me that worker bees were especially adept at grasping mites that crawled between their legs and to their underside where they attach and feed on the bee's blood. The mites the bees grasp are carried outdoors and discarded.

We now have data to show that some honey bees in Europe, the U.S. and Brazil have the ability to control varroa through grooming. The incidence of the hygienic behavior among European honey bees is much lower than it is among Africanized (and presumably African) honey bees. The

behavior appears to be a little different in each group but in all cases revolves around grooming.

Perhaps as important as anything is that beekeepers everywhere in the country be alert to the fact that natural resistance through grooming occurs. Surviving colonies in trees, buildings, abandoned boxes, and beekeeping equipment are potentially resistant and may be useful bees.

At least one commercial queen breeder has some of this resistant stock. In fact, it is probably in the hands of several breeders. Conclusive tests have not been run on all the queens available but that process is in the works.

A second thesis I was shown studied the use of bait hives in the city of Riberao Preto where about half a million people live. It was shown that bait hives could be used successfully to remove a large number of nuisance swarms. When the bait hives were used firemen, who people usually call about swarms, received fewer calls.

Intensive Vs. Extensive

In practical beekeeping in the U.S. some beekeepers operate more colonies than they have time to visit and manage. Their thought is that by having more colonies spread out over a greater territory they are more likely to secure a crop. There are, on the other hand those who have fewer colonies but who pay greater attention to each one. The same is true in Brazil. I visited with a 1,000 colony beekeeper who routinely captured 200 to 300 swarms in five frame bait hives to make up his losses. He spent little time with his bees and concentrated more on packing and selling his honey and other hive products. I was told that among Brazilians extensive beekeeping is more popular than intensive beekeeping. ◊

Stainless Steel

I was pleased to see tanks and extractors made of stainless steel in the one honey packing plant I visited. I think beekeepers everywhere are becoming more aware of the importance of using only stainless steel in their processing equipment. In any event, the honey I was shown and given was neatly packaged and the beekeepers were obviously aware of the importance of giving customers a first class product.

Stinging Bees

About 50 feet behind the honey bee laboratory where about 25 professors and students worked, and I visited, there was a large apiary of Africanized honey bees. There were about 75 five-frame nucleus colonies and behind them the larger experimental colonies. One afternoon I was with five graduate students, all in their twenties. There were none of the older staff or professors present. I started talking about aggressive bees and what these students thought about them. They had all worked with the gentler European bees that had been brought into Brazil from the United States, and their hybrids, as well as the more aggressive Africanized honey bees. I asked if the average Brazilian today worried about aggressive bees. The students said no. As the discussion progressed it was obvious they were aware that one selected apiary sites with care. Apiaries should be away from dwellings and where children play and there are animals. The students felt the Africanized bees behind the laboratory posed no threat to themselves or anyone else. That little session gave me more confidence that someday we in the United States will reach a more rational position concerning Africanized honey bees. ◊

? DO YOU KNOW ?

Pollen & Nectar clarence collison

Pollen is important to honey bees because it is the primary source of protein in their diet and serves as a strong stimulus for brood rearing in spring. Pollen consumption allows nurse bees to produce and feed royal jelly to their queen and larvae, and it is an important dietary component for young bees and developing larvae. Nectar, the raw product of honey, is also important to the welfare of the colony and financial returns for the beekeeper. All of the nutritional requirements of brood and adults are

provided by these two plant-produced substances. Both minor and major floral sources must be present during different seasons of the year when bees are active in order to have strong productive colonies and for maximum returns to the beekeeper. Please take a few minutes and answer the following questions about floral sources, nectar and pollen supplies, and the bee's behavior in collecting these valuable resources.

The first nine questions are true and false. Place a T in front of the statement if entirely true and F if any part of the statement is incorrect. (Each question is worth 1 point).

1. ___ Honey bees mix either honey or nectar with pollen during collection prior to packing it in the pollen baskets.
2. ___ Pollen grains have a very strong outer shell which resists decay.
3. ___ Pollen grains carry the female reproductive cells of plants.
4. ___ Pollen supplies the honey bee with energy.
5. ___ Fresh pollen has a greater nutritional value than stored or dried pollen.
6. ___ Pollens vary in nutritional value to bees depending on their floral source.
7. ___ White sweet clover typically blooms about two weeks earlier than yellow sweet clover.
8. ___ The Beltsville Bee Diet is an example of a pollen supplement.
9. ___ Clovers are often considered to be the most important American honey plants.
- A. Saw Palmetto B. Mistletoe C. Dandelion D. Sages
E. Red-Bud F. Cranberry
13. ___ Grows as a parasite on trees in the south and serves as an early source of pollen and nectar for bees.
14. ___ Small herbaceous plant that grows in wet bogs and marshes of Eastern Canada and North-eastern U.S. that requires bee visits to secure fruit set.
15. ___ A shrubby plant that is a member of the mint family, with several species that yield surplus water-white honey in California.
16. ___ Low growing palm, found on dry soils in the Gulf Coast region that produces large quantities of distinctive yellow surplus honey.
17. ___ Small tree found in the Eastern U.S. that blooms in early spring before the leaves are out, providing bee pasture for spring brood rearing.
18. ___ Herbaceous plant that provides large quantities of orange pollen pellets and surplus nectar for early spring brood rearing.

Multiple Choice Questions (1 point each).

10. ___ Structure within the flower responsible for producing pollen.
 - A. Pistil
 - B. Anthers
 - C. Stigma
 - D. Filament
 - E. Style
11. ___ Crude protein content of pollen is highly variable and ranges between _____ percent.
 - A. 8-40 %
 - B. 25- 50%
 - C. 80-95%
 - D. 42-63%
 - E. 55- 78%
12. ___ Pollen traps normally are made of hardware cloth _____ grids or perforated metal sheets with 3/16 inch holes.
 - A. 3 mesh
 - B. 6 mesh
 - C. 5 mesh
 - D. 2 mesh
 - E. 4 mesh
19. Define anther dehiscence (1 point).
20. Compare the process of how pollen and propolis are packed into the pollen baskets on the worker's hind legs. (2 points)
21. Below is a diagram showing the hind legs of the worker honey bee and structures involved in the transporting of pollen from the flowers back to the hive. Please label the diagram with the following parts: Pollen Comb, Pollen Rake, Pollen Basket (Corbicula), and Pollen Press (Auricle). (4 points).



Listed below are several important floral sources that provide pollen and/or nectar for honey bee colonies in various regions of the North America. Please match the correct description with each floral source. (6 points).

ANSWERS ON PAGE 225

THE FATEFUL STING

steve beach

Sometimes, one is all it takes.

The first symptom was itching in the palms of my hands. I noticed it within two minutes of the sting and in the next few minutes it spread to my whole upper body and face. My neck and face began to feel swollen, my pulse raced, I began sweating heavily and the world started to recede. I was seeing and hearing everything from what seemed like a great distance as I moved away from the hives and took a seat beneath a tree.

I tried to deny what was happening, "Surely it'll pass. I'm okay, I just need to get my head together." But I was *not* okay and should have been on my way to the nearest emergency room.

My story actually begins a week before this scene with what is known as the sensitizing exposure. After being stung between the eyes, the part of my immune system responsible for guarding against foreign substances began producing millions of custom made weapons for fighting bee venom - and distributing them throughout my body. The sting itself was no big deal. I scratched it out and kept right on working; the swelling was only slight. But when that sting was followed by another the following week

Imagine what would happen if the U.S. military began lobbing nuclear missiles at every jay walker and illegal alien in the country and you'll get a pretty good picture of what took place in my body during that allergic episode. All those specially made weapons were called into play and the chain reaction that ensued was nearly devastating.

In retrospect it's obvious that my partners and I did



just about everything wrong in response to the situation. We were robbing the first of about 20 hives in an outyard and didn't bother to put on any protective gear even when we noticed the bees were in an ill mood. Second, when I noticed the first symptoms I should have gone to the hospital *immediately*. Once my thinking became muddled I wasn't able to even make that decision. So I sat there - my pulse would race and then slow to almost nothing; I had alternating sensations of heat and cold; my face and neck throbbed with pressure. I remember trying to focus my mind, to relax, but every time I began to think things were smoothing out, the confused, anxious state of mind would take hold again and my heart would pound. I vaguely remember my partners asking me how I was doing; someone gave me an antihistamine tablet (Benadryl) and I swallowed

it. Later my head cleared enough to tell them I wanted to go to the hospital, but by the time we arrived the reaction had just about run its course. I got an injection of Benadryl and was soon on my way home.

I now know that my confused mental state was due to lack of blood (thus oxygen) in my brain. Histamine released from cells throughout my body had caused surface blood vessels to dilate, drawing away much of the blood needed by my brain and internal organs. Had the reaction been only slightly more severe I would have passed from a systemic reaction into full blown anaphylactic shock. I may have found it difficult or even impossible to breathe as my throat began to swell closed. Vital organs would have been starved for oxygen. The brain can tolerate lack

of oxygen for only a few minutes without extensive damage or even death.

You are a beekeeper. You are expected to have answers when the topic is bees. If you've been at it for any length of time it's inevitable that you've heard stories like mine. It does not, however, inevitably follow that you know what steps to take when it happens to you or your friends. Your knowledge is not complete without an understanding of the information that follows.

To begin with, most (but not all) fatalities due to bee sting anaphylaxis occur within 20 minutes of the sting - Benadryl by mouth takes about 30 minutes to enter the

bloodstream. If you remember only three words from this article when you think about bee sting anaphylaxis let them be - EVERY SECOND COUNTS. If you notice *any* of the symptoms of an allergic reaction after a bee sting by all means, if you have Benadryl on hand, and the symptoms are still relatively mild, use it - but do it as you proceed immediately to the nearest hospital.

Bee stings go with the territory so to speak, but we can minimize our risks with a bit of preparation and by taking a few precautions. The most dangerous stings are on the face and neck, so even if you don't like wearing all of the protective gear, at least consider using the veil. I'd also recommend working with a partner who is familiar with

Continued on Next Page

KNOW THESE KILLERS

SYMPTOMS

	ANAPHYLAXIS	HEAT EXHAUSTION	HEAT STROKE
Unusual skin color	*	*	*
Variable pulse rate and strength	*	*	*
Unconsciousness	*	*	*
Fever	*		*
Confusion	*		*
Dizziness	*	*	
Nausea/Vomiting	*	*	
Cramps	*	*	
Weakness	*	*	
Hives/Itching	*		
Wheezing	*		
Labored breathing	*		
Coughing/Sneezing	*		
Swelling of face or throat	*		
Diarrhea	*		
Chills	*		
Intense anxiety	*		
Low blood pressure or shock	*		
Headache		*	
Skin may feel cool or hot		*	
Perspiration heavy or absent		*	
Hot dry skin			*
Convulsions			*

+ FIRST AID +

ANAPHYLAXIS -

1. Administer epinephrine (available by prescription)
2. Administer Benadryl if symptoms are still mild and doing so doesn't interfere with item 3
3. Transport to hospital
4. Perform CPR and treat for shock if necessary

**HEAT -
EXHAUSTION**

1. Lie down in cool place with feet slightly raised
2. Slowly drink water - lightly salted if possible

HEAT STROKE -

1. Cool patient as quickly as possible
2. Transport to hospital
3. Adjust cooling efforts to victim's temperature

basic first aid and CPR. There are fairly inexpensive books you can learn these skills from, but as a Red Cross instructor I urge you to take our training class with your partner. That way you'll know for sure he's qualified too. You should also both know the shortest route to the nearest emergency room or trauma center.

It's interesting to note that beekeepers were the focus of some of the earliest research in the field of immunology because of their unusually high tolerance to bee stings. Repeated exposure to bee venom usually has a desensitizing affect on the body, but as with certain other allergy-causing substances, repeated exposure sometimes has the opposite effect. What this amounts to is that *anyone* at any time and for no apparent reason can become hypersensitive to bee venom. I've been stung repeatedly for years; I've taken multiple stings on occasion, yet *one* sting nearly did me in. People generally considered to be at greater risk are over 30 years of age, have other allergies, have family members with allergies, or have at some time experienced more than minor discomfort from a bee sting. There is still no satisfactory cure for insect allergy. The treatment is risky, unreliable, and must be continued for extended periods.

Considering the spread of both the AHB and the fire ant (which can also be a deadly threat to hypersensitive people), it's becoming increasingly important to be prepared for anaphylactic emergencies. Fire ant colonies are usually easy to see and avoid, but when you do get into them you often won't know it until you're covered with ants. And these nasty buggers sting and bite. Needless to say, anyone who receives multiple stings from whatever source, should seek medical attention.

An allergic reaction may begin with any number or combination of symptoms. A relatively mild reaction can worsen at any time - even hours after the sting. To

compound things further, many of the symptoms of anaphylaxis are also shared by heat related emergencies, another possible problem area for beekeepers. The accompanying chart lists the symptoms and treatments unique to each, as well those they share. Learn it well. Heat stroke, as well as anaphylactic shock, is fatal without prompt and proper care. Precious time spent treating a patient for the wrong trouble could prove disastrous. Precautions to take while working in the heat include drinking plenty of water before and during activity, having sufficient salt in the diet, and just plain taking it easy.

Statistically, only about four people in a thousand need to worry about insect allergies (that's about 50 people who subscribe to this magazine). The problem is you don't know if you're one of them until it's too late. Take precautions - use your protective equipment. I didn't, and my life will never be the same. ☺

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GETTING THERE

richard bonney

Colonies Used For Pollination Need To Meet Certain Standards Of Size, Health and Age

Sooner or later, most beekeepers give at least passing thought to the idea of renting colonies out for pollination. Most never actually do it, but obviously, some do. Perhaps you will be one of them. Of those who do, some keep it at a very small scale – two or three colonies for the small orchard down the road, for instance. Others get into it more seriously – ten, twenty, perhaps hundreds after a while. Either way, small scale or large, the business of pollination requires a little something extra. First comes the thorough understanding that just any colony won't do. A colony to be used for commercial pollination must meet certain standards. Then, there is the commitment to provide that colony, when and as promised. Not always easy. When the time comes, colonies must be available in spite of winter kill, mites, disease, or any other adversity. Finally, they must be moved to the crop. We will deal with each of these points, starting with the colony.

CHARACTERISTICS

The colony can best be discussed by setting some standards. Over the years many studies have been done to determine what comprises a proper pollinating unit. These can be summarized by stating that a colony used for pollination should have:

at least 30,000 bees
at least six frames with brood
at least four frames (20 pounds) of honey
two deep hive bodies, or equivalent space, with drawn comb throughout

Now let's justify these standards. We can start by looking at the pollination process as performed by the bee. What does it take for a colony to put the requisite number of bees out there in the field?

Bees do not deliberately pollinate flowers. Pollination is a natural result of a bee landing on a flower or series of flowers to collect pollen or nectar. If a bee is foraging for nectar, she will land and push her way to the base of the flower to reach the nectaries. As she moves about in and on the flower, she rubs against the pollen-bearing anthers. Pollen adheres to the plumose hairs of her body. In some instances, pollination is accomplished immediately as she moves about in the flower, transferring pollen from the anthers onto the stigmas of that flower. In other instances the pollen must be taken to another flower. As

she moves from flower to flower she progressively distributes the pollen. The process continues until she has a full load of nectar. The bee is not aware that she is distributing pollen.

If the bee is on a pollen foraging trip her actions are a little different. After landing, she will deliberately wallow around in the flower to get a large amount of pollen on her body. She will then back out of the flower, and, either standing on a petal or in hovering flight, will comb the pollen from her body, packing it into the pollen baskets on her hind legs before moving to the next flower. Though she combs her body, some of the pollen grains remain adhering to the hairs, and this pollen rubs off on that next flower.

In both instances, pollination is accomplished. In neither case, however, is it a deliberate or conscious act by the bee – she is merely foraging. Even so, the action of foraging for pollen does a better job of pollination because of the bee's wallowing. She manages to collect and redistribute more pollen by this action.

So, to accomplish pollination we need bees in the field foraging for either nectar or, more preferably, for pollen, and we need as many of those bees as we can get. We do have some control over this, first through the size of the colony, and second through the amount of stores.

Population dynamics come into the picture here. We know there is a division of labor in a bee hive. For the first part of its adult life, each worker remains in the hive performing a variety of tasks – raising brood, cleaning house, building cells, processing honey, and so on. Later they become field bees, foraging for nectar and pollen, and incidentally performing pollination. These are the bees that we care about. Studies have shown that small colonies have proportionally smaller field forces than do large colonies. That is, an average colony of good health and strength may have 50-60% of its workers foraging while the remainder work in the hive. A smaller colony may only have 35-40% of its workers foraging, while a much smaller colony would have even fewer foragers.

In practical terms, this means that two colonies of 20,000 bees each might put out a combined field force of 16,000 bees (20,000 x 40% x two colonies). A single colony of 40,000 bees might put out a field force of 24,000 bees (40,000 x 60%). This is a difference of 8,000 bees actively foraging and pollinating out of a total force of 40,000 bees. It's obvious that smaller colonies are less efficient, and

putting in extra colonies to compensate probably does not accomplish that goal. Experience has shown that a colony with 30,000 bees puts out a field force of acceptable size.

The amount of brood is a further consideration. The presence of brood stimulates pollen collection. It is well known that emerging brood consume large amounts of pollen. Bees insist on a certain minimum of pollen on hand, and further, an availability of pollen in the field if they are to sustain brood raising. The presence of brood then indicates pollen coming in, and the larger the amount of brood the more pollen foraging takes place. Again, we don't care about the pollen, per se. It is the act of *pollen foraging* that matters.

Brood then reflects two things. It tells us that a certain level of pollen foraging will be sustained, and it further indicates a level of adult population. The presence of six frames with brood indicates a probable supporting population on the order of 30,000 bees.

One remaining factor here is the size of the hive. Two full depth hive bodies are strongly recommended. This gives ample space for the existing population plus additional room for expansion. Congestion and swarming behaviors are reduced. Swarming, of course, would put a serious crimp in the population and their capability to field a maximum foraging force.

Further, all drawn comb rather than foundation allows for a smaller house-bee population. If foundation were present, bees would be required to secrete wax and draw out that foundation.

AVAILABILITY

Preparation must start the previous season if colonies meeting the standards are to be ready in the spring or early summer. That is, the colonies must be overwintered. It has been well demonstrated that for *most* of the country and for *most* crops, a colony made up in the current season from a package or from a nuc does not meet those standards. There just isn't time for a new colony to become established and build up to an acceptable level.

As an example, consider a three pound package installed in

mid-April. Here we are starting off with roughly 10,000 bees. The queen begins to lay in the days immediately following installation, but no new bees will emerge until three weeks after that first egg.

Meanwhile, during those three weeks, some of the original bees from the package are dying as they reach the end of their natural life. The net result is a loss of population during the first month or so of a package colony's existence. We can reasonably say that the colony will not have built its population anywhere near the requisite 30,000 bees by the time apples and blueberries, for instance, are in bloom.

A nucleus colony will do better than a package, but even so, experience has shown that a three or four frame nuc started in the spring will not get its population up to the desired number in time. One of the problems attendant with either a package or a nuc, one that we seldom think about in any context, is that a new, young queen starts slowly. She does not reach her full egg laying potential of 1000 to 1500 eggs per day until after several weeks.

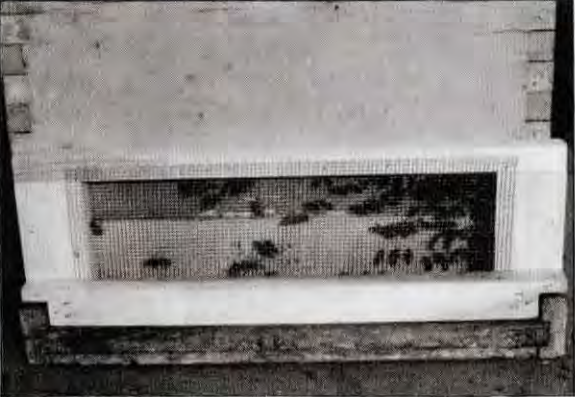
This brings us back to overwintered colonies. Here, too, we have some uncertainties. The number of colonies available in the fall when pollination agreements are often made can be considerably different the following spring after winter. When you make commitments to provide colonies, consider your past experience with overwintering. Can you reasonably expect to have the agreed upon number of quality pollinating hives available when bloom time rolls around?

MOVING

Over the years I have been told a variety of stories about moving bees for pollination. Some were sad, some were funny, some just reflections of poor preparation or lack of knowledge. From my own experience and from these stories I have a couple of recommendations.

Most tales about moving colonies involve the problems that arise from stumbling

Continued on Next Page



Be sure the entrances are tightly screened before starting to hammer in the hive staples. A piece of wire mesh makes a simple entrance closure. A couple of staples will keep it from vibrating loose. A screened porch helps reduce the sense of confinement for the bees.

around in bee yards and pollination sites in the dark. I used to do that, but orchards, blueberry barrens, and the like can offer some rough terrain. I prefer to navigate such places in daylight. After a couple of nighttime moves, I changed my system. I go to the hives at dusk, just after the bees are in for the night, and screen and staple everything. Then I go home to bed. Soon after dawn I load the bees and head for the pollination site. I get a good night's sleep and the bees are confined for only two or three hours of daylight.

Of course, screening is an **absolute** requirement. When moving bees at night, you may get away without it, but you're taking a chance. There are too many opportunities for mishap — flat tires, mud holes, steep hills, or just plain lost. Stopping for any of these gives unscreened bees a chance to come out. They will, and even more so if there is any light nearby. If you stop at a gas station or a diner, for instance, many of the bees will fly. Then when you drive away there will be a cloud of bees left behind to terrorize the populace and bring bad repute to beekeepers everywhere.

Secure screening, then, is a must. Large operators dealing with truckloads of bees find it easiest to throw netting over the entire load, leaving individual colonies open. But for just a few hives, wire mesh on each hive is the thing. Window screening will do but it tends to be too flexible. I prefer 1/8" galvanized mesh. Cut a strip about 2" wide by the width of your hive entrance, usually about 14-3/4" Fold the mesh lengthwise to a vee and slip it into the opening, folded edge first. Staple it to the bottom board to hold it in place. Otherwise, vibrations from the moving vehicle may cause it to slip out. Do not close down or reduce the hive entrance before screening. The bees need

ventilation. Put pieces of mesh or screening over any other entrances or openings in the hive. Smaller cracks can be covered with duct tape. It is surprising how small an opening a bee can squeeze through when determined. If you do not have the hive securely screened, you will find it covered with escaped bees when you reach your destination.

Once the screening is in place, staple or strap the hive together. Do not depend on propolis or the hive's apparent integrity to hold things together. Fastening is a **must**. If the hive shakes apart during the trip, again, you will find it covered with bees when you arrive. That's assuming it didn't fall apart altogether.

If the weather is especially hot, or if you expect the bees to be confined for more than a few hours en route,

consider a hive top ventilating screen. I use it without an inner cover, and in very hot weather without the outer cover. Further, with this screen in place, the bees are much calmer when they reach their destination.

"Moving colonies may be the most public 'Public Relations' activity you ever undertake."

They don't like being confined, and the screen seems to reduce their sense of confinement.

At the destination I smoke the entrance heavily, then pull out the entrance screen, simultaneously throwing a handful of grass across the opening to slow the bees' exit. This does two things. It keeps them from chasing me if they are overly upset, and it causes them to look around a little more closely at their new surroundings, helping them to become oriented to this new location. If you stay around to watch, you should see indications of orientation and foraging behavior almost within minutes.

Now that you have them safely set up in this new location, your extra care in getting them ready and moving them should ensure they do a good job, leading to an invitation for you to bring them back next year. ☺

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GEORGIA ON MY MIND

keith delaplane

Georgia Is Kind To Beekeepers, There's Something Here For Everyone.

In my thirteenth year as a youngster in Indiana, my parents bought me a beginning beekeeping kit – a box of exploded hive parts, budget-grade veil and smoker, thin cloth gloves, a little how-to book, and a certificate for, of all things, a package of bees to come in the mail. I was doubtful at best, remembering some bad experiences with mail-order ants – the kind that go with those plastic ant farms where the ants live three weeks before they curl up and die. But I sent in the certificate anyway. My bee kit came in the dead of winter, so I had lots of time to put the hive together and look forward to spring when my bees would arrive. And one day in May, the mailman honked his horn from the road, and I burst out the door and met my first package of bees. With a sense of disbelief, I gingerly carried it inside and looked it over real good. It had a funny, musty, sort of pleasant smell, and the bees seemed contented enough. It was heavier than I thought it would be, and it was covered with all sorts of labels and instructions. And the return address was from Georgia.

That was my first hint that Georgia was a big name in the beekeeping business. Unlike my ant farms, the bees were a success, and eventually I subscribed to bee magazines and went to bee meetings. And everywhere I went I heard about Georgia. The queen and package bee advertisements bristled with city names

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like Baxley, Claxton, Hahira, Jesup, Moultrie, and Mount Vernon. Most of the bees and queens I bought in the following years came from the Peach State. When I got older and started thinking about careers, I scanned the employment ads for a beekeeping job in Georgia – an endeavor that came true, in a sense.

My love affair with bees led me to graduate school in entomology where I learned that Georgia was also a prestigious center of university research in apiculture. And in 1989 when I graduated for the last time, it seemed almost fitting that I took a job as Extension Apiculturist at The University of Georgia.

And it has been exhilarating to live, to work, and to keep bees in Georgia – the largest state east of the Mississippi and the supplier of bees to the world. But those who know Georgia only for its queens and package bees are surprised to learn of the incredible geologic and climatic

diversity of this state. Accordingly, the beekeeping industry is diverse, encompassing everything from backyard hobbyists, crop pollinators, professional honey producers, to those well known queen and package bee producers. It all happens in Georgia, and most of it happens in May.



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GEORGIA ... Cont. From Pg. 207

Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains are one of the few areas in the country that produce sourwood honey.

In north Georgia, everything revolves around the sourwood flow. Sourwood is a slender, native tree that tolerates higher elevations. It blooms from mid-June through August. The honey is usually very light, although this is variable, and the flavor is rich and distinctive. To top it off, sourwood granulates slowly and has an excellent shelf life. No wonder beekeepers go to great pains to collect it. With an eye toward mid-June, beekeepers start stimulative feeding and medicating around February and March. By the first of April, queens and package bees are available for making up winter losses or splits. By feeding, equalizing, and medicating new colonies, north Georgia beekeepers get them to production strength in time for June sourwood. Mature, overwintered colonies collect surplus "early" honey from blackberry, clover, sumac, and tulip poplar in May. Because these early honeys are darker than sourwood, beekeepers try to keep the two separate. They remove and harvest all supers after May and re-super for the sourwood bloom, or, if they are migratory, wait until sourwood is under way before they move in their hives. This requires a bit of skill and experience. Sometimes, for example, sumac (a dark amber honey) overlaps sourwood bloom by a week or two, and as one Georgia beekeeper

Georgia is roughly divided into three geographic regions. The Blue Ridge mountains cut through the northeast; this region has a cooler temperate climate. The middle of the state is the piedmont; a region of rolling hills, agriculture, and forests. The southern third of Georgia is the flat, mild-weathered coastal plain. This is the region of heaviest agriculture, including beekeeping. Beekeepers in these different regions might as well belong to different continents, because the objectives, timetables, and flora differ considerably.

including no less than nine distinguishable types. Understandably, Georgians learn the differences and develop loyalties to their local honey varieties. That is why, for example, sourwood honey rarely gets out of the Appalachians.

Georgia's diversity of feral honey plants has generated a small intrastate migratory industry. Since tulip poplar and gallberry bloom in May and sourwood blooms in June, beekeepers can move hives to different regions and maximize the size and variety of their crops.

In 1991, Georgia ranked fourteenth among states in honey production - not a remarkable statistic. But, this figure does not consider the enormous nectar flows that are converted into bees to drive the package bee industry. For these large producers, honey is by far a secondary product, and they concern themselves with honey only after the package season is safely behind them. Considering these unrecorded nectar flows, Georgia's honey production potential is large. Unlike the major honey producing states that rely on vast acreages of cultivated legumes, Georgia's honey producers rely mostly on non-cultivated, feral plants. As such, the variety of Georgia's honeys is large,

Let's look at typical beekeeping routines in three regions of Georgia...



Ty ty is one of the earliest dependable nectar flows in south Georgia.

says, "When you mix dark honey with light honey, you get dark honey." Some beekeepers wait until sumac is good and gone, even if they must sacrifice gross yield, before they super up for sourwood. Most sourwood is sold in the regions in which it is produced. Part of the culture and ambience of southern Appalachia is the sign "Sourwood Honey" at a roadside store.

Moving south, we come next to the piedmont, considered by many a marginal area for beekeeping. Compared to the bounty of other regions that may be so, but the piedmont still has a lot to offer. For one thing, it contains most of Georgia's beekeepers, thanks to metro Atlanta's burgeoning population of hobbyists, and it's no secret that hobbyists provide the spark of enthusiasm to our industry. The piedmont revolves around May blackberry, clover, and tulip poplar flows. Like their counterparts in the mountains, piedmont beekeepers begin feeding and medicating in February. Splits and packages can be set up in April, but it's difficult to get these to production strength in time for the May flows. To make it worse, after May the honey season is over. That's why the piedmont is home to most of Georgia's intra-state migratory beekeepers. By moving hives to the mountains in June, piedmont beekeepers can catch sourwood crops, even from first-year colonies.

Tulip poplar trees are the most consistent honey plant of the piedmont. Although it tastes quite good, the dark color is a turnoff to a number of buyers. In some years, blackberry and red clover produce good crops. If this coincides with a light tulip poplar flow, piedmont beekeepers may experience a welcome surprise – a crop of light honey. Interestingly, some local pockets in the piedmont are extraordinarily rich in honey quantity and variety. I know of at least two regions in the central piedmont dense with sourwood trees and miles away from the Blue Ridge mountains.

As we move south into the coastal plain we find the heaviest concentration of beekeeping in the state, the domain of the queen and package bee producers and the gallberry – Georgia's primary honey plant. Beekeeping here never really stops. With mild winters, bees are active year-round, and beekeepers must constantly keep an eye on food stores.

Pollen flows and brood rearing begin as early as December, and swarm prevention begins as early as March. Spring ty ty is the earliest sizable nectar flow; its March blooms fuel the rapidly growing colonies for the imminent package season.

Queen and package producers spend the brief winter feeding bees, building packages and cages, and taking orders. In February they begin rearing queen cells, and by late February and early March they make packages of bees from strong colonies and use them to set up baby 'nucs' – miniature colonies used to house young queens during their mating season. When the first batch of queen cells is ripe, each one is put inside a

baby nuc, and the young queen emerges, takes her mating flights, returns to the nuc and starts laying eggs. When the queen producer confirms she is laying, the queen is ready to sell or put in a package.

After queens are available, the producer is ready to start "shaking packages" from strong colonies. This is rarely possible before the last week in March. Usually two crews are required. One crew looks for the queen in each colony and sets her apart from the rest of the hive. The next crew can then follow, shake bees off the combs and down a funnel into a package, and not have to worry about finding the queen in the parent colony.

Continued on Next Page

Take a drive along a south GA highway and you will likely see mating yards like this – hundreds of little nucs that house young queens during their mating season.





Shaking packages.

interest in renting colonies for pollination. This activity fits well with existing beekeeping schedules in much of the state. For instance, March apple and blueberry bloom in north Georgia comes at a time when the bees have little else to do. This is an excellent chance for additional revenue for beekeepers. In south Georgia, squash, cucumber, and watermelon growers want to rent bee hives, but this sometimes conflicts with the schedules of queen and package bee producers. And, as with any new enterprise, there is resistance among some growers to pay beekeepers adequately for their services. But these problems are surmountable with education and time, and the prognosis for a growing pollination industry in Georgia is good.

I can't finish without a word, not about Georgia, but about her beekeepers. Their generosity and downright friendliness are inspiring. My wife jokes about how I have a guest room anywhere I go in the state. There is a remarkable solidarity in the state association in spite of the vast differences between the giant south Georgia outfits and the hobbyists. I don't understand why it's that way, but I'm thankful for it.

Georgia is kind to beekeepers. From the cool mountains whose slopes shine white with sourwood to the sultry coastal plain awash in gallberry, there is something here for every kind of beekeeper. ◊

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Each package later receives a new caged queen, a can of syrup, and – a necessity of modern beekeeping – a miticide strip to guard against Varroa mites. For package bee and queen producers, it's full speed ahead in April and May as beekeepers all over the world gear up for summer nectar flows. Georgia bees are indeed all over the world; one of the largest customers recently was Kuwait as it rebuilt its bee industry after the Iraqi invasion.

The incredible gallberry flow is sometimes overlooked in the bustle of package bee season. Coming in May, gallberry is almost a nuisance to package bee producers. It's too late to fuel population growth for packages, and dripping combs, heavy with raw nectar, drench bees during the shaking process. In fact, shakers must carefully avoid sticking, rolling, or even drowning bees during heavy gallberry flows. But for honey producers, gallberry is a bonanza. It is a premium honey, light colored, mild flavored, and distinctive. It is consistently Georgia's highest yielding honey plant. But, like most areas in the state, it happens in May. If your bees aren't ready by the first of May, you won't get a gallberry crop.

After May, beekeeping slows down a bit in south Georgia. Honey producers are busy extracting and marketing their crops, but queen and package producers start looking to next year. After peak season, queen and package outfits begin requeening every hive – a process that may take the

rest of the summer. But the payoff is worth it when next spring they have overwintered colonies busting with bees for the new package season, thanks to those young queens. Summer isn't very exciting in south Georgia beekeeping. Palmetto is an intermittent honey plant, but for the most part it's time to feed bees and watch for mites.

Commercial pollination is still in its infancy in Georgia. For years, fruit and vegetable growers enjoyed the services of "free bees", but feral populations of bees are declining due to mites and habitat destruction. County extension agents increasingly report poor fruit set. The result? Growing

Gallberry - the highest yielding honey plant in Georgia. This is a premium-grade honey limited to the coastal plain.



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• **Apiary Inspectors of America.** John O'Brien, NV Dept. of Agr., 350 Capitol Hill Ave., P.O. Box 11100, Reno, NV 89510-1100 (702) 688-1180

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• **Apimondia.** International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations — President, Raymond Borneck, Rue Du Creux, Montbarrey, France, 3y; General Secretary, 101 Corso Vittorio Emanuele Rome, Italy 00186, (6) 65-12286. Periodical: Apiacta (quarterly).

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If your association is not listed in this directory, or there is an error in the information, please send additions or corrections to:

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USING THIS DIRECTORY

Starting with the first page we have listed at the State Level . . .

A Contact Person for the State Association
The State *Inspector*
The State *Extension Agent*
The *State Trade Office* for Export Marketing
The Office of the State *Department of Agriculture*

Next, there is a page with Federal contacts (both U.S. & Canadian) for a variety of groups, a listing of the major Industry Organizations and their respective contacts, the USDA Research Labs and the International groups.

Finally, there are the contacts for *Local Associations*, those at the Regional, County or even City level.

Though picking the fruits may be a prickly proposition for us, bees are not hindered in their scramble for bramble nectar. Oregon is blessed with a climate conducive to growing a wide variety of bramble fruits, and ranks first among all the states in the production of blackberries, boysenberries, youngberries, loganberries and red and black raspberries. Wild blackberries of at least three kinds abound along roadways, rail lines, and fencerows around old homesteads. Cultivated brambles include raspberries both black (blackcaps) and red, marionberries, loganberries, boysenberries, blackberries and youngberries.

All of these brambles belong to the genus *Rubus*, the Latin word en-



There are two other wild blackberry varieties in the Pacific northwest: the evergreen *Rubus laciniatus* ("cut in fringe-like segments" referring to the leaves) and the Himalayan blackberry, *R. procerus* ("tall"), both of which have escaped from cultivation and become naturalized. Evergreen and Himalayan blackberries are grown commercially for fresh fruit, jams, pie fillings and syrups, and for regionally produced wines. Colonies are rented for pollination of the cultivated berries, while the acreage of their wild counterparts is a source of surplus honey in western Oregon.

The evergreen blackberry blooms in May through June, its white or pale pink flowers producing nectar that is 36% sugars. The Himalayan black-

THE BRAMBLES

b.a. stringer

compassing blackberries, raspberries and other brambles. In these plants, nectar secretion often begins before the flower opens, and bees can be seen foraging between the petals of closed blossoms for hidden nectar.

The first bramble blooms of the season in Oregon appear on the wild creeping blackberry, also called dewberry or Pacific blackberry, which is the only variety native to Oregon. This plant, *Rubus ursinus* (the name derived from Latin *ursus* "bear" referring to the Great Bear constellation in the Northern sky), flowers in late April and May and produces nectar with a sugar content of 40-60%. Lu Alexander, a well respected, longtime beekeeper from near Portland, says that when the creeping blackberry blooms, it's time to raise queens. Before then, the weather is generally too unsettled to get good matings.



Bramble flowers (above) are as attractive to bees as the fruit and honey are to beekeepers. These are Blackberry plants (USDA photos).

berry bloom begins late in May and continues into July, with white flowers containing 27% sugar in the nectar. Both varieties also produce abundant grey pollen.

Red raspberries are grown commercially in the northern Willamette Valley counties where beekeepers compete for sets in the crops. Blooming from mid May to early June, the flowers are a source of pollen and a delectable and aromatic light-colored honey which sells for a premium price. Pollination fees range from \$8.00 to \$20.00 per colony (1990 prices), with an average of one to two colonies per acre. The fruit sells for about \$1.30/lb. at roadside stands, or 85¢/lb. at "U-Pick" outlets.

There are several species of raspberry in cultivation, including the red raspberry of Europe (*Rubus idaeus*), and the two wild raspberries of North

Continued on Next Page

America (*R. strigosus*, red, and *R. occidentalis*, black). The black wild raspberry is also known as "blackcap" In addition there are purple raspberries, hybrids between the two North American species, which are variably thorny depending on their heritage. Raspberries differ from blackberries in that the mass of fleshy drupes constituting the fruit are easily separated from the receptacle (the cone-shaped core of the fruit). The name raspberry is derived from *rapsberry*, coming from a Middle English word for a kind of wine.

Loganberries, youngberries and boysenberries bloom in April and May. The loganberry results from a cross between the 'Antwerp' red raspberry and 'aughinbaugh' blackberry. It was named after Judge J. H. Logan of California, who developed it in 1881. Youngberries were named after B.M. Young, an American horticulturist. Their heritage is somewhat unclear, but they apparently were bred from crosses between blackberries (or possibly loganberries) and dewberries (trailing blackberries). The boysenberry was developed by Rudolph Boysen, another American horticulturist. He crossed varieties of raspberries, blackberries and loganberries to produce the very large and succulent boysenberry. Some modern cultivars of these berries are thornless.

Beekeepers with access to acreage of these fruits watch the skies and cross their fingers for good weather to make a honey crop during the bloom. According to Oregon County and State Agricultural Estimates, the

1990 production value of black and red raspberries, cultivated blackberries and blackberries was \$19,154,000. There are no records on the value of the premiere honeys produced from the fruit bloom.

Worldwide, there are an estimated 200-400 species of *Rubus*. Different botanists, who classify the plants in different ways, state there are between 50 and 390 species of *Rubus* in the U.S. All species are excellent summer foods for wildlife, especially birds such as grouse, pheasant and quail. Other birds feasting on the berries include grosbeaks, robins, thrushes and towhees. Small mammals like raccoons, chipmunks and squirrels eat the fruit, while deer and rabbits browse the leaves. The thorny, impenetrable thickets of brambles provide very effective cover for a wide variety of wildlife.

Wild blackberries provide excellent bee pasture for western Oregon beekeepers from early June through the end of July in the Willamette Valley. In the Coast Range and foothills of the Cascade Mountains, evergreen and Himalayan blackberries bloom from the beginning of July, continuing through August, providing valuable summer honey flow to which many beekeepers move their bees after Valley bloom is over. The resultant pollination of wild berries supplies a superb harvest for the wild gourmet.

The cultivated brambles of the Pacific northwest are a regional delicacy, and the source of premium honeys and wines. The wild berries are a source of delight to bees and their keepers, providing delectable honey redolent of bramble-blossomed fields, and succulent fresh fruits melting on the tongue. □

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What Did I Do Last Time?

o.b. wiser

The days are hot the end of June, divides are "cooking," some already going into their third box. It always seems this is the time of year that new queens are superseded, as the end of the dearth comes into sight.

The City of the Bees is my largest location with 40-55 hives. My sweat band (my own type) has just been taken off and put over my rear view mirror to dry out after I wring it as dry as I can. I have finished going through all hives to check for what I call **THE WORKS**. I have done this for so many years I don't have to think about what I look for.

The moment I lift the lid off the hive, I know if it is strong, weak, or medium, if it has AFB or if it is queenless. I can also tell if it is in need of food. All this before I even pull one frame.

Confirmation comes upon actual inspection. What I consider a total inspection is taking one or two hives down to their toenails - meaning I take all boxes off the hive and look at the number four or five frames, (the center three frames) of the second brood chamber of each hive.

Upon inspection of brood combs, I also determine if the hive is queenless or has a failing queen. If queenless, I look for queen cells and note their age to determine if I am going to let the bees raise their own queen. Usually, in June, if it is queenless and I do not see queen cells, I add a frame of young brood with eggs.

Then begins the most important part of beehive marking. I have looked in the hive and evaluated several factors, The most important are the following (time in hive 1-4 min):

Is the hive queenless? If it is, then I mark the back or side of the hive using lumberman's chalk, and I always use blue. Why lumberman's chalk? It is not a crayon. It is a chalk and in time will wear off and not affect paint. Marks from this year's chalk are always brighter and more obvious, while those from last year are faded. Blue fades to lighter color, whereas black - well, black is black.

The codes I use are below.

You will find these symbols and abbreviations are straight forward, simple and to the point. The **XXX** symbol for AFB was new to me years ago, but most commercial beekeepers use some form of an X to indicate AFB.

If you forget your chalk simply put one rock or stick or brick or whatever you can find on top of the hive, then the next time you will be

Continued on Next Page

Condition of hive	Abbreviated code used
1. Queenless	
A. With cells -----	Q- cells (DATE)
B. Add eggs -----	Q- +eggs (DATE)
C. Add queen in cage -----	Q- + cage (DATE)
D. Hopeless -----	I add to another hive
2. Queenright	
A. Good Laying Queen ----	No mark is made on hive
B. Poor Laying Queen -----	Poor Q+ (DATE)
C. Drone Laying Queen ----	DL (DATE)
D. Virgin Queen -----	VQ (DATE)
E. Hatched Queen Cell, but don't see Virgin queen --	Q- VQ? (DATE)
F. Laying Worker -----	LW (DATE)
G. Was queenless now queened	Put Slash through Q- (Q+)
3. Diseases	
1. American Foulbrood ----	XXX 3(last digit of the year)
2. European Foulbrood ----	XX3 (Last digit of the year)
3. Sacbrood -----	SAC (DATE)
4. Others -----	Nothing
4. Health of Colony	
1. Starving/Feed -----	F1, F2, F3 (Feed 1-3 frames honey)
2. Weak -----	W (DATE)
3. Very Weak -----	VW (DATE)
4. Dead -----	D
5. Strong -----	S (DATE)
6. Super Strong -----	SS (DATE)
7. Divide Hive -----	(+ Division Symbol) (DATE)
8. Swarmed -----	Q- Swarmed (DATE)
9. Super -----	/ or //: one / = one super two // = two supers

flagged to look and try to find out why you left the rock on.

Back in the good old days I, too, used the brick method. I put one half of a brick somewhere on the hive to mean a specific thing. I found it harder than morse code so I graduated to a brick on the lid which meant any of the above. You figure it out. Finally I quit hauling bricks to the yard and just used a small rock that would not blow off. Then I discovered wonderful, blue lumberman's chalk and I always have the chalk with me.

You may want to transfer some of this information to a permanent record. Most of my marks just stay on the hive and are used for the next visit I make. I bought out a beekeeper with those horrible telescoping lids, each covered with metal complete with a 20 year history written on top in pencil, which stays forever. In fact, I was using one of those lids as a paint stand last month and sure enough 40 years later, I could still make out some of the conditions of the long-since dead hive. Writing on lids is not the best, because they can be switched by accident if you have many hives.

My Spring table used on March 30, 1992 looked like this

This table is the actual info I put into my daytimer. It all fits on one fourth of one page and I can get four

different tables on one page, so I can see at a glance what has happened. By the way, the real work to recover from the mite attack took place in the next table and I changed column headings to indicate numbers of divides and AFB and number of queens

"Good records make good beekeepers"

needed. Recovering from mite kill is simply a matter of equalizing the hives and feeding to keep them alive, and hoping for warm weather.

The chart uses eight columns that are left blank so that the important info can be put in for that visit. In July, what's important is supers and hive numbers. I keep track of how many supers are on each yard so I can plan my harvest schedule and know how to make up the truck loads.

Over the years, I have seen and tried a few high falutin' methods to keep track of bees. All have been miserable failures. I have a student who wants to pick my mind for a computer program on hives. When I was in grad school I thought the computer would be the ticket. Now, well, I lean on keeping the computer

out of the beeyard and in the office. If any of the information collected in my Day Timer (Day Planner) is useful for economic reasons, it may have a place in a computer program. I'm still waiting to see one that is worth the chips it is programmed on.

On the equivalent of two sides of one page of a day timer, I have all the records I kept on over 280 hives for one full year. It is precise and all that I need. I like to make the charts before the season starts so I am not out in a bee yard putting the chart together.

When I'm done inspecting all the colonies I have made marks with chalk on those with problems. Then I simply take off my gloves, get my day planner out, and collect statistics while I lean on a hive. How many queenless, how many with AFB, how many need supers, did I treat this yard for AFB, and did I treat for mites. In the comments, I will often note that there is a good honey flow or bees are boiling over, supers are all full, or any of a hundred things.

I do not make a big deal about record keeping or spend a bunch of time (maybe 2-5 minutes per yard is all). But I've learned that when you come to divide or super or collect honey, you simply *must* know how many boxes to take or how much room you'll need on your truck.

And I Learned That The Hard Way. ☺

Location	Date	Dead	Alive	Strong	Weak	Feed	Comments
1. Hackers	3/30	4	29	none	all	no need	mite kill
2. Cottonwood	3/30	8	17	none	2-4 frames	full of honey	mite kill
3. Waterplant	3/30	3	23	18	5	none	less mite kill this year
4. Pioneer	3/30	1	14	all strong all need dividing now	none	no need	no mites yet, good weather honey flow
5. Stake Farm	3/31	12	14	none	2 frames max	no need	treat all for mites
6. Sheeppyard	3/31	14	14	5 hives	9	no	bring in divides
7. City of Bees	3/31	19	37	20	17	20 frames	good hives for divides

BRING IT ON HOME

Thoughts On Collecting Swarms

jeff ott

Last month I discussed the Swarm Retriever, used to collect swarms. "That's nice Jeff", you probably said, "But, I don't have the money for a swarm retriever . . . now what?"

Not to worry. Although the Swarm Retriever is a great machine beekeepers have been successfully collecting swarms long before it was around. This month let's look at what you should consider before and while you are capturing swarms this season.

Swarming, as you probably know, is the honey bee's way of insuring the continuation of the species. Despite our best efforts as beekeepers a colony may swarm. Entire chapters in beekeeping books have been devoted to prevention yet the reader is often left perplexed or down right confused. What you need to do, management-wise, is talk with local beekeepers and find out what they do. Settle on a system you feel comfortable with then stick with it. After you have several seasons under your belt, then consider

improvements or changes. But I'm not going to go on about prevention. Just remember, sometimes no matter what you do bees will swarm.

You may ask, "Is it wise to capture swarms, with the fear of mites and Africanized honey bees?" If a colony is infested with mites (either varroa or tracheal), it won't have the strength to produce a swarm. This still holds true today. Most figure that all honey bee colonies have some level of infestation of either or both mites. Therefore, if you don't collect swarms for this reason you won't save yourself from mites. You'll pick them up somewhere else, eventually, anyway.

However, if you live in a part of the country where the Africanized honey bee (AHB) is a real concern I would have to say don't go about collecting swarms. Some of the experts are advocating the destruction of these feral swarms. You do not want a colony of bees. Period. Moreover, as the AHB moves north, swarm collecting will

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

Eight Questions to Ask

- 1. What is the address of the property where the swarm is located?**
Obvious, but often over looked. Ask for directions before you leave.
- 2. What is the actual location of the swarm on the property?**
In a tree in the backyard? A bush? On a fire hydrant? What and where, exactly. Advise the caller to keep children and spectators away. Tell the caller to leave the bees alone until you can get there.
- 3. How high?**
Know how high and tell them you cannot get the swarm if it is too high for you. If they are too high assure the caller the bees will probably leave before too long and will no longer be a "problem"
- 4. Are they really honey bees?**
Often, anything that flies is a "honey bee" to the uneducated. Ask what the bee looks like. Are they hanging, or flying out of a hole in the ground. Are they hairy, or shiny. Are they flying out of a paper-like nest? These are signs of the type of bee you're dealing with so you know what to expect before you leave.
- 5. How long have they been there?**
If they have been there awhile they will not be gentle. A "dry swarm" (honey stomachs no longer full of 'stored' food) can be nasty and cause problems. Spray the bees with sugar water let them feed, then spray again. Make them content before you move them.
- 6. How big is the swarm?**
Do you really want to drive five miles (or more) for a swarm the size of a softball? If it is big, will your collection equipment handle them all?
- 7. Do they know where the bees came from?**
If a neighbor has bees in his backyard, perhaps they should call him. They're probably his. Avoid the "ownership" problem.
- 8. What is the phone number of a person to contact at the site?**
Always get this. You need to have a contact there. If it is going to be a few hours before you can get to the swarm, call just before you leave. Swarms have the darnest knack of leaving right after the initial call.

(or should) be curtailed in these areas, too.

But for now, how do you go about getting swarms? If you have the time you can drive around during swarm season looking for one in flight or hanging off a tree

next to the road. You can do it. I know beekeepers who keep gear in their trucks just in case that once in a life time "monster" swarm is found. But there are better ways to make sure you get swarms and the best way is through a swarm list.

If you belong to a local beekeeping organization, get the names and phone numbers of the beekeepers wanting swarms and distribute this list to local police and fire departments, the county extension agent, pest control operations and the newspapers, several weeks ahead of the season. They will appreciate your help. Usually the dispatcher will call down the swarm list until someone is contacted willing to pick up the swarm.

If you do not belong to a local organization, you can still take your business card or other letter of notification to the same departments and get the same results.

Now, we know we want a swarm or two, and the call list has been distributed several weeks in advance of swarming season. What's next? Prepare your equipment.

Earlier I mentioned some beekeepers keep extra equipment with them during swarming season. There are a couple of pieces good to have on hand. Even though you always read about how gentle swarms are, and you've probably seen beekeepers hiving swarms without a veil, *bring it along*. Until you get comfortable around bees, swarms and stings, always wear protective clothing. Minimally, wear the veil and bring your smoker, although you probably won't need it. It's better to have it and not need it than the other way around.

Next, know what you're going to put the captured swarm in. You probably won't keep the bees in this capture box so use your imagination, and just about anything will work. Use a cardboard box that can be closed and with an entrance hole cut in the side; a plastic five gallon bucket with a screened lid; burlap sacks work as do nucs or even hive bodies complete with frames, top and bottom board. Have several different types of collection containers along with you if possible. What works in one situation may not work in another. The important point here is *ventilation*. Bees must have plenty of fresh air and be kept out of the sun.

Before swarm season begins I securely staple a bottom board to a hive body with 10 frames of foundation. Swarms will draw comb quickly, so it is a good time to have frames of fresh foundation on hand. At any rate, I like to have several of these "swarm gathering hives" ready. If the swarm is conveniently located (next to the ground, or close enough I don't have to hold the empty equipment) I can shake or scrape the swarm right in the super, come back later in the evening, close it up and take it home.

A friend of mine uses old cardboard boxes that are

First, have your equipment ready. . .

about the size of a deep. It doesn't have to be exact. It just needs to be big enough to hold the swarm and convenient to use. He places the swarm in the box, folds it closed, slowly rotates it upside down and sets it on

the ground. A hole he cut near the "top" of the box serves as an entrance to draw in the stragglers.

So, now you have your swarm list distributed and your equipment in place - what's next? Wait. Check your own colonies for signs of impending swarms. If they are others around the country side will be too. It only takes one warm, sunny day and there'll be a flurry of swarms. Usually during the warmest part of late morning, the bees will rush out and their first landing place is often only a few feet from the originating colony.

This is when you're likely to capture *your own* colony. But don't try and put it back where it came from. Put it in a new hive, even in a different yard, although this is not necessary. For what ever reason, old field bees forget their old home and return to the new one. So, if you have only one yard it should be O.K. to place the new colony there.

What happens when the call comes in? After being on a volunteer fire department for over seven years I can tell you this - just like emergency calls, a swarm call comes just when you least expect it. Usually, just as you sit down at the supper table, or are heading out to a ballgame with your kids. You name the most inconvenient time, and that's when you'll get the call. That's why you should have your equipment ready to go, already loaded on the truck.

Often you'll get the call later in the day when the homeowner returns from work and finds the swarm on their porch railing, in their favorite shade tree, or somewhere else equally awful.

Ask those eight important questions. Know what you want and get all the information you need before you go out the door. This will save you valuable time, and avoid a lot of false runs.

When you get to the swarm, take a look around. Take in the *entire* scene. Is it safe? Will electrical lines interfere? What about children? Have the parents or other adults keep the kids at a safe distance. Make sure they actually are honey bees. Question again the person who called you, if they're around, or someone who knows something about the swarm. Ask a subset of the eight questions on the list. See if there are any changes to the story.

If the swarm is in an area that is attracting a lot of attention, get prepared to collect the swarm and get them out of there before most people even know you are around. If it is in a backyard or other secluded spot then you can afford to take a little bit more time.

Is the swarm actually a colony in the open. If it is a colony and not a swarm, expect defensiveness of guard bees protecting their home. Move spectators back further.

If it is a true swarm, look for the queen. She could be almost anywhere, but if you can find her, gently pick her up and put

. . . then know what to do with it.

Continued on Next Page

SWARMS ... Cont. From 217

her in a cage. Once you have the queen, you can control the entire swarm.

If the swarm is hanging on a low branch, you can give them a sharp shake into your capture container, whether an empty hive, cardboard box or a burlap sack. Look around after you do this and see what's left. Are the remaining bees clustering in one area. It is possible that you missed the queen and they found her. Take a look and repeat the process if necessary. If you use a box, nuc or hive to capture the bees, watch them settle down. You'll see pretty quickly if the queen is in the box. If she is, the bees will all start to head for the colony entrance. Bees on the outside will arch their back ends and fan. You may notice a slight citrus smell in the air. That is the component of the Nasonov pheromone that you can smell. Bees at the entrance are telling the flying bees where home and the queen is.

After you have gathered the swarm, there will always be stragglers in the air or on the place where the original swarm landed. If you can, leave the collection box in place until dusk, then take it home. This way most of the bees will be drawn into the box you leave. If you must leave

Make sure you've asked the right questions.

right away, tell the home owner or "person in charge" that there will be a few bees at the site for a day or two. If you have a spray bottle of soapy water, lib-

erally douse the swarm site. This will kill remaining bees, lessening the potential of stinging problems later. Or, tell the homeowner how to do this, so they can handle the problem.

At this point the bees are yours. Sometimes it is nice to leave a pound of honey for the homeowners, especially if you've had to prune a branch or two to get to the swarm. Some beekeepers charge for collecting swarms. If you do make sure your fee (usually \$25.00 - \$30.00 in these parts) is known up front - in the initial phone conversation. Sometimes the homeowner expects you'll pay them for the bees, because, they figure, you're going to make loads of money from the honey. What ever, make sure it is settled up front.

Finally, do not take the swarm if it is too dangerous. It is not worth the risk or aggravation if you put yourself out on a limb - or in the hospital. Plan your moves and be prepared before hand. The rewards will only make the honey sweeter. ☺



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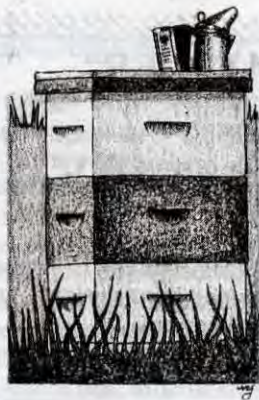
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BEE TALK

richard taylor

"American Foulbrood can be easily controlled, but the medication's instructions are incredibly confusing."

Although this is being written on a day of a winter storm, it will be April before anyone reads it, and by then you'll know whether you lost any colonies to mites. I'm not going to talk about parasitic mites this time, other than to make a couple of important points. First, it is probably tracheal mites that cause most mite-related winter losses. If you find a colony with honey still in the combs but almost no bees, dead or alive, then that means tracheal mites. You can put the equipment right back to use, either by installing a package or, far better, by giving it three combs of brood and bees from colonies that survived plus a new queen. That's lots cheaper and you get a better result. Varroa mites, on the other hand, do their damage the year 'round. I'll say more about varroa another time.

This time I'm going to talk about combatting American foulbrood with Terramycin. I have found this very effective over the years, amounting to complete prevention. It is also very easy and safe to use, provided you observe the most elementary precautions. It is given to the bees in minute quantities, early in spring before any supers are on the hives. Some beekeepers repeat it in the fall.

The only problem with terra, as beekeepers call it, is that the formulations supplied by the manufacturer are frightfully confusing, and the directions for using it are hardly less so. Indeed, it took me years to figure it all out, even with help. Now I do not

claim to be particularly smart, especially when it comes to scientific things, but I do know how to read, and it seems to me that directions for something like this ought to make sense. Here is my attempt to render intelligible what seems otherwise to be a morass of bewilderment and confusion. I just hope I finally have it all straight.

1. TM-25, which is the commonest formulation of Terramycin, is a mix of 25 grams of oxtetracycline hydrochloride in one pound of inert carrier. That is why it is called TM-25, though the package doesn't call it that. Unless you know the secret you don't know whether you have TM-25, TM-50 or what. So when you purchase a package of terra, what it contains is mostly the carrier, into which is mingled a small amount of the antibiotic.

2. The standard packet of TM-25 is 6.4 ounces. Thus, if you stop to figure it out, that packet contains 10 grams of the antibiotic.

3. Other common concentrations are TM-50, with 50 grams of antibiotic per pound, and TM-10, containing 10 grams. So now you will see that the standard 6.4 oz. packet of TM-25 is equivalent to one pound of TM-10.

4. The first thing you need to know is whether you have TM-10, TM-25 or TM-50. The directions will state the concentrations, and you can figure it out, from what has been said above.

5. If, as is likely, what you have turns out to be TM-25, then you will read that it is useful in treating swine, calves, lambs, etc. There may or may not be any instructions for use with bees. For years there were not; you had to go ask someone's advice. But

the last pack I got has directions for bees. They say to mix one level teaspoon of the mixture to one ounce of powdered confectioners sugar. This is profoundly impractical, because it assumes that you not only have a teaspoon measure with you, but a small scale to weigh out one ounce; or else, that you will take a standard two-pound bag of confectioner sugar and then measure out a level teaspoon of the terra thirty-two times! How much simpler it would have been just to give the amount of sugar in spoonfuls, same as the terra, or, to simply say how much of the terra to mix with the two-pound bag.

The directions next say, as an alternative, to mix one pound of TM-10 with two pounds of powdered sugar. Fine. But what you've got is TM-25, not TM-10. Okay, so now go back and recall that the standard 6.4 oz. packet of TM-25 is the equivalent of one pound of TM-10. There, now it all works out right! You just add your 6.4 oz. packet of TM-25 with the two-pound bag of sugar. Now why couldn't they simply have said that in the first place?

6. Now the directions become thoroughly weird. They say to apply this mixture "on the outer parts or ends of the frames", one ounce at a time. So again, it is assumed that you have in your apiary a tiny set of scales capable of measuring out one ounce for each colony. Why give the amount in spoonfuls? And what are the "outer parts", as distinct from the inner parts, of the frames? And how does one go about dusting the ends of the frames, and what would be the point of it anyway?

Now here's what it all comes down to. You dump two pounds of pow-

Continued on Page 222

BEE CULTURE

dered sugar into a small bucket, add your packet of TM-25, and mix it all up good. (Use four pounds of powdered sugar if what you've got is TM-50). Then using your hive tool as a ladle, throw about a tablespoonful of this over the top bars of the combs. It takes but a few seconds per colony, and the bees carry the dust away in an hour or two. Minute quantities end up inside the brood, and that nips any foulbrood in the bud.

If you take your little bucket of this mixture to your apiary you will find it is sufficient for dealing with about 40 colonies, or with 20 colonies twice, and so on. The exact amount given to each colony cannot be critical, especially in the spring, since

there is such a wide variation in the colonies. Some will have only two or three combs of brood, and others will be three times as strong, with six or ten combs of brood. You should, however, try not to overdose, as too much of this stuff can be mildly harmful to the bees; or at least, so I am told.

It would be difficult to imagine a set of instructions more confusedly composed, with critical information obscurely buried, measurements in grams combined with measurements in ounces, measurements in weight combined with measurements in volume, and the whole business requiring translation. It all just boils down to this: Mix your packet of TM-25 with two pounds of powdered sugar and give about a tablespoon, more or less, to each colony. ☐

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—QUESTIONS?

Menthol Now?

Q. In one of my apiaries, of twelve colonies, five were dead this spring, (March), apparently from tracheal mites, since there was no other sign of disease and there was honey but few dead bees in the dead hives. Should I use menthol in the remaining colonies?

Duane Wald
Interlaken, NY

A. No, it would be pointless now. The remaining colonies will probably all rebuild and deal with the mites themselves at this stage of the season. Mites spread fastest in the winter clusters. During the warmer seasons it appears they do not seriously affect hive populations or honey crops even when they are present.

Ed. Note: However, a late summer/fall treatment with menthol is most beneficial, and will significantly reduce mite populations going into winter.

Mixed up?

Q. Can I keep Itallans, Carniolans and Caucasians all in the same apiary? I have heard that cross breeding can result in cross bees.

Craig Pullman
Arma, KS

A. Queens fly considerable distances to mate and normally mate with several drones, so there is likely to be much cross breeding no matter what you do. And cross breeding does not necessarily result in cross bees anyway. I don't think it makes any difference if your apiary has different races of bees.

Ed. Note: The assumption here is that you are letting these colonies raise their own queens. If that is the case, you will soon *not* have distinct races of bees in your colonies, but only mongrels. Conventional wisdom says to regularly requeen with queens of known heritage, eliminating any problems.

A Date with a Queen

Q. In requeening, when should you introduce the new queen—right after destroying the old one, or several days later, or ten days later?

Bob Lyons
Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada

A. At the same time the old queen is removed. If you wait, then the bees will immediately begin queen cells, greatly reducing the likelihood of acceptance. If you wait ten days they will have sealed queen cells, making acceptance virtually impossible.

Keep it Simple

Q. Do you have a set of plans or dimensions for making an observation hive? I would plan on using two or four full-depth frames, one over one or two over two.

L. M. Panzer
Ridgefield, CT

A. You can set your own dimensions, so long as you observe the following: A single full-depth frame, or one full-depth plus one half-depth frame, is best. Do *not* have any frames side-by-side, for you will in that case seldom see the queen. The space between the drawn comb (i.e., the top bar) and the glass panes must not be more than one-quarter inch; otherwise the space will be filled with burr comb. Put vaseline on the edges of the glass panes, so you can slide them out for cleaning. Plan to feed your observation colony sugar syrup during nectar dearths, as the bees can exhaust their stores and starve quickly even in mid-summer.

Separate, but equal

Q. How long can you keep queen bees in a queenless nursery?

John E. Palmer
New Market, NH

A. A queenless nursery is a queenless nuc. One or more queens can be kept in such a nuc by fastening the mailing cages into an otherwise empty frame and putting this in the middle of the nuc. A three-frame nuc works fine. Queens can also be thus kept in a queenless full-size colony, but it is needless to render a full colony queenless just to get a nursery. As to how long they can be kept thus, the answer seems to be, almost indefinitely, so long as the nuc itself is fed when necessary, and an ample supply of house bees is available. These may, on occasion, need to be restocked by adding a frame of brood ready to emerge from another colony. I have heard of a beekeeper who put a queen, still in her cage, into a hive, forgetting to remove the cork at the candy end, and he found her, still in the cage, alive and apparently healthy, months later, even though the colony had meanwhile raised another queen. Usually a queen will destroy any other queens, even while still in their cages.

Questions are welcomed. Address Dr. Richard Taylor, Box 352, Interlaken, NY 14847, enclosing stamped envelope for response.

—ANSWERS!

Richard Taylor

?Do You Know? Answers

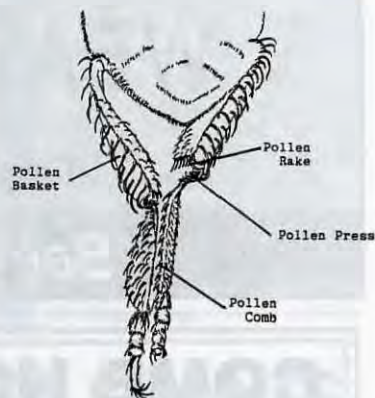
1. **True** During the pollen collection process, worker honey bees moisten pollen with regurgitated honey or nectar to produce a paste-like condition suitable for packing pollen loads.
2. **True** The outer covering of pollen grains, called the exine, is made of a tough substance that resists decay or breakdown. Therefore, pollen grains retain their characteristic shapes even through millennia, and are useful in studying climates and vegetation of the past.
3. **False** Pollen is the male germplasm of plants. Each pollen grain contains a vegetative nucleus which controls the growth of the pollen tube and two nuclei which are the male sex cells. One of these sex cells will join with and fertilize the egg nucleus in the ovary of the flower.
4. **False** Pollen supplies the honey bee with protein, fats, vitamins and minerals, however, is a poor source of food energy. The active adult needs to consume honey or nectar for adequate energy.
5. **True** Several researchers have shown that the nutritional value of pollen decreases upon storage. Fresh pollen is 100% effective in stimulating the development of hypopharyngeal glands in worker bees. In comparison, one-year-old pollen had a 76% decrease in effectiveness and two-year-old pollen did not cause initiation of brood food gland development. Growth and increase in nitrogen content of bees fed fresh pollen is superior to that of stored pollen.
6. **True** Pollen grains from different species of flowers will be of differing nutritional value to the honey bee, partly because of the different amounts of protein in pollens. Some pollens have also been shown to be deficient in certain essential amino acids.
7. **False** Yellow sweet clover blooms about two weeks earlier than white sweet clover and where both are present, a long honey flow may be expected.
8. **False** The Beltsville Bee diet is

a commercial pollen substitute, that does not contain any natural pollen. A pollen supplement consists of a source of protein, such as soybean flour, fortified with pollen.

9. **True** The various species of clovers have contributed more to honey production in the United States and Canada than any other groups of plants. While there are many different species of clovers grown, the ones of major importance for honey production are: White and Yellow Sweet Clover, Alsike Clover and White Clover.
 10. B. Anthers
 11. A. 8-40 % protein
 12. C. 5 mesh
 13. B. Mistletoe
 14. F. Cranberry
 15. D. Sages
 16. A. Saw Palmetto
 17. E. Red-Bud
 18. C. Dandelion
 19. Anther dehiscence is the process of the anther wall splitting open when pollen grains are mature, making them available for collection and distribution.
 20. To obtain a load of propolis, workers first use their mandibles to bite off pieces of plant resins from buds and then pass the propolis on to the forelegs. The load is then transferred to the inner surface of the middle leg (basitarsus), on the same side of the worker's body. The middle leg is next used to press the propolis into the pollen basket (corbicula) of the hind leg, again on the same side.
- Pollen collection and packing is different. Pollen is gathered from anthers by movements of the legs and the mouthparts as well as by pollen which adheres to the body hairs. The forelegs brush the proboscis, and also clean the pollen from the head

and the front of the thorax. Pollen is transferred from the forelegs and the rear portion of the thorax to the middle legs. Pollen on the middle legs is passed to the pollen combs on the inner hind basitarsi by scraping the middle legs past the pollen combs. These pollen combs also scrape pollen from the abdomen. The pollen rake of the opposing hind leg scrapes the inner surface of each pollen comb, which results in the pollen being transferred to the pollen press on the opposite hind leg. Finally, the pollen which has accumulated on each pollen press is forced into the pollen basket by pumping the legs.

21.



There were a possible 25 points in the test this month. Check the table below to determine how well you did. If you scored less than 12 points, do not be discouraged. Keep reading and studying- you will do better in the future.

<u>Number Of Points Correct</u>	
25-18	Excellent
17-15	Good
14-12	Fair

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GLEANINGS



APRIL, 1993

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

Delaplane Hosts New Show **T.V. BEEKEEPING SERIES**

Beekeepers and wanna-bees can tune in to an eight-week series on Georgia Public Television called "Honey Bees and Beekeeping: A Year in the Life of an Apiary"

Keith Delaplane, a University of Georgia Extension Service entomologist, hosts the half-hour series, which begins Saturday, March 27, on GPTV stations at 11:00 a.m. The program follows the workings of an apiary, including building hives to receiving and installing bees, migrating hives, queens and packaged bees, diseases and pests, harvesting and processing honey, overwintering hives and Delaplane's Ten Commandments of Beekeeping.

Viewers are encouraged to also order a book to accompany the series, which will give more information on beekeeping throughout the year. Called "Honey Bees and Beekeeping", the book is available for \$12.50, plus postage from GPTV, or from the A.I.



Keith Delaplane hosts "Honey Bees & Beekeeping" on Georgia Public Television.

Root Co. when available.

The series is produced by the UGA Extension Service and the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens, GA.

Bad Apples

IMPORTS NOT LABELED

Surprise inspection that caught workers at WA state packer/shipper Chief Wenatchee repacking New Zealand apples into boxes labeled "Washington apples" is tip of much larger scandal. As reported in *The American Fruit Grower* in December, three California produce firms have been charged with same offense and more recently another three companies were named. In the case of Chief Wenatchee, a cooperative that is one of Washington's larger fruit packers, USDA is seeking to

revoke its PACA license for two years. This license - required under Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act - is necessary for fresh fruit sales. Without it, Chief Wenatchee would be shut down. USDA is also after Richmond, WA-based exporter WLH Group Inc., which allegedly conspired with Chief Wenatchee to export misbranded apples to Taiwan. WA Apple Commission has also initiated legal action against Chief Wenatchee for label infringement (misuse of WA logo).

TEXAS HONEY QUEEN



Christy Michelle Oakley, 1993 Texas Honey Queen, is the daughter of Jimmie and Kay Oakley of Round Rock, Texas. Christy is a Psychology major at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

Having worked in all areas of the family bee business, Christy will draw on her experiences in promoting all aspects of the Texas beekeeping industry.

She is sponsored by the Williamson County Area Beekeepers and the Texas Beekeepers Association.

PA GRANTS GRANTS

The Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture announced the awarding of two research grants for the calendar year 1994. The first study will be conducted by Ronald Romig Ph.D., Dept. of Biology, West Chester Univ., West Chester, PA. Dr. Romig's study is titled, "Effect of Honey Bee & Other Pollinating Insects on Qualitative & Quantitative Yields of Snap Beans in PA" The second study will be conducted by Maryann Tomasko, Apiculture Extension Specialist, and Shelby Fleischer Ph.D., both with the Dept. of Entomology at PA State Univ., College of Agricultural Science, University Park, PA. Their study is titled, "Pollination of Pennsylvania Cucurbits & the

Effect of a New Pesticide on Pollination" The total dollar amount of these awards is \$71,411.21.

These research proposals were strongly supported by the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association. The PSBA has actively sought research proposals from the five resident researchers at different Universities throughout the State. Over the past five or six years scientists at Penn State, Delaware Valley College and now West Chester University have shared in almost \$300,000.00 of research moneys directly supporting bee research. In January Sandy Fisher, the former Vice President, became PSBA President replacing Dr. Bob Brooks who had served four years as President.

**SEND YOUR NEWS
TO GLEANINGS**

Texas Counties Having Confirmed Finds of the Africanized Honey Bee

February, 1993



NEW CROP ATTRACTANT INCREASES VALUE

Two Simon Fraser University professors have used their synthesized honey bee queen pheromone to attract bees to hard-to-pollinate crops.

Mark Winston and Keith Slessor were the first in the world to identify the substance queen bees secrete to attract pollen-gathering worker bees.

The study of social-insect pheromones is new – bees are estimated to produce at least 36 pheromones. But virtually all are secretions that elicit a specific behavior.

The queen sociochemicals belong to a different class, called primer pheromones that exercise a more fundamental level of control by mediating worker and colony reproduction and influencing broad aspects of foraging and other behaviors.

Their existence was well known, but their identification and synthesis had proven difficult.

Winston and Slessor had been researching queen pheromones for some time when they happened to put a glass lure coated with queen mandibular extract next to some stray workers on a laboratory bench.

To their surprise, the workers formed a retinue around the lure.

“Clearly the extract had properties its major known constituent did not,” they reported. “This was exciting because the retinue response is easily recognizable and takes place immediately.”

They developed a bioassay based on the retinue response that was a particularly sensitive indicator of pheromonal activity. Their bioassays evaluated complete or fractionated mandibular extracts.

Eventually they identified the components of five active fractions and then developed a synthetic blend of five components that duplicated the activity of the natural mandibular secretion.

The pair then took their research a step further, spraying notoriously hard-to-pollinate crops such as pears and cranberries with the artificial pheromone.

They selected two orchards that consisted of two varieties of pear – Bartlett and Anjou – as well as two orchards consisting of Red Delicious and Golden delicious varieties.

Some trees were sprayed with the artificial pheromone.

The results were beyond all expectations.

“We’ve had some stunning successes,” said entomologist Winston.

Pear and apple trees sprayed with the pheromone were suddenly more attractive to bees under a wide range of conditions. When the fruit developed, pheromone-treated plots had more medium and large fruit and fewer small pears and culls.

“It ends up increasing the number of bees foraging on the crop and gives you better pollination,

BEEKEEPING MUSEUM

Beekeeping has a long and colorful history throughout the world. Some countries, for many years, have had craftsmen design and build complicated hives and associated pieces of equipment while other areas of the world have continued to build and use simple hive equipment. Yet, the objective is the same – Bee Culture.

In the original administration building of the OH Agricultural Research & Development Center (1896), a modest room has been designated as a bee paraphernalia museum. If the exhibit proves to be popular, additional space will be allocated to the developing museum.

The small museum has various hive styles that have been used within the U.S. as well as smokers and glassware. A special holding of the museum is an envelope from L.L. Langstroth’s queen

production business in his script. In a nearby yard, several hives of unusual design, though not necessarily antiques, are stocked with bees and are functional. Additionally, for those interested in plant material, a 60-acre arboretum, having many bee plants, is located on the grounds of the Research Center.

The beekeeping museum is a permanent feature of The Ohio State University and actively solicits contributions to the Museum’s holdings. Due to staffing shortages, the museum hours may vary, at times but it is generally open during most days from 9:00 – 5:00. However, phoning before stopping by is a good idea.

For additional information, contact: The Honey Bee Laboratory, Ohio State University Extension/OARDC, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, OH 44691. (216) 263-3725.

which gives you bigger fruit and makes you more money,” Winston said.

The researchers found using the pheromone increased the crops by C\$1,055 a hectare. They said the increased average orchard revenue was C\$1,161. The cost of the pheromone was put at C\$81 a hectare and the average spray cost was C\$25 a hectare.

With cranberries the increased earnings were up to C\$44,250 a hectare and with blueberry, the increase averaged C\$986.

The researchers said the artificial pheromone could also be used for transporting bee packages without a queen.

Until now, packages invariably contain a queen because her presence prevents workers from becoming agitated and overheated.

But there are not always convenient or reliable sources of queens for package producers, while some beekeepers prefer to purchase their own queens.

“The results demonstrated synthetic queen mandibular-gland pheromone lures can be used as queen substitutes in the shipment of packaged bees and possibly in other applications,” the researchers said in a subsequent paper.

They said pheromone lures could also serve as queen substitutes in situations where logistical problems result in queens being temporarily unavailable.

They said the synthetic pheromone could also be useful for maintaining units of bees larger than packages.

“Ultimately, large colonies might be pacified during periods of queenlessness, or made purposely queenless to direct segments of the workforce away from brood rearing to foraging.

All this should mean more money in the pockets of farmers, beekeepers and honey producers.

The two men hold a patent on the pheromone, and the patent has been licensed to Pherotech, a company in British Columbia.

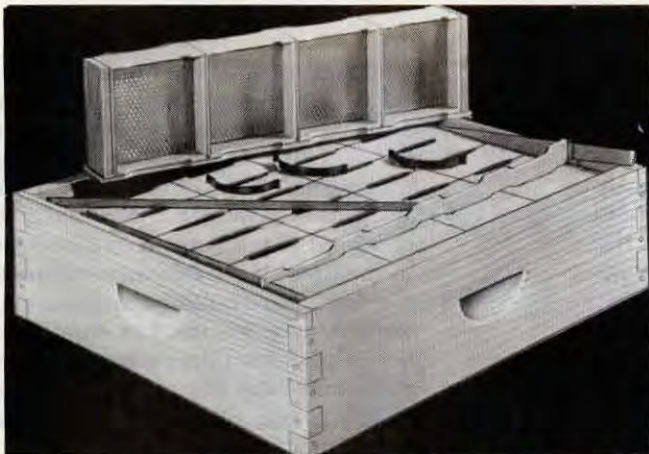
“We have yet to make any income on it,” said Winston. “They are marketing the pheromone and at some point, we may receive some royalties, but I don’t think we’ll ever get rich on it.”

“The excitement in doing the research and in being able to do something that has proven to have some benefits in B.C. and Canada,” Winston said.

The pair recently won a gold medal for their “outstanding contributions” from the Science Council of British Columbia.

Slessor has spent most of his career studying the chemistry of insect communication. Winston, who is considered an expert in insect behavioral ecology, looks forward to years unraveling the mysteries of the honey bee.

—Alan Harman



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It was less than a month ago that I sat on the floor silently cursing a leading toy manufacturer for subjecting me to eight pages of "easy to assemble" instructions. Referring to one of six possible models, and alluding to innumerable "clearly marked" plastic parts, these instructions, written in three languages by a schizophrenic engineer, led me ever onward toward my eventual goal, a fully assembled, operational slot car track, capable of doing everything you could think of with the possible exception of milking the neighbor's goat.

"What", you may ask, "Does this have to do with beekeeping?" Let me see if I can explain. Whether you are for the first time assembling a slot car track, changing a flat tire, operating a power tool or beginning to keep bees, you are going to be exposed to the instructions and directions of others.

At first glance this seems like a viable means of accurately and systematically transferring knowledge. Without it we would unendingly be "reinventing the wheel" Furthermore, having in the past successfully used this learning technique (believe it or not, I can change a flat tire), I decided to employ this method again.

With this in mind, I bought several books explicitly designed to instruct the novice in beginning beekeeping. I'd have this figured out in no time. After all, I could change a flat tire. And what's more, these books were written in only one language at a time, or so I thought.

Oh sure, it looked like English. It even sounded like English, but I soon knew better. Think about it for a moment. Would anyone really writing in English refer to an object made of eight boards, designed to fit on top of a hive stand as a bottom board? After all it wasn't on the bottom, and it wasn't one board. They even warned you in the next paragraph that if you put it on the bottom it would soon get wet causing both bees and equipment to suffer.

Then, they had pictures of these boxes. You know the ones. The ones the bees live in. The ones they call supers, brood chambers, food chambers, section boxes, and section supers. Why couldn't they just call them boxes? That's what they were. I understood they came in four or five sizes. I didn't understand why, and furthermore, I didn't understand why after all of this, they then said that box hives were illegal. If you didn't use these boxes, why were all the bee supply houses advertising them for sale? What were you supposed to use; those straw things? I think they called them skips or skeps or something like that.

Then, just to complete my confusion, they started to talk about frames. I could understand why the frames come in a variety of sizes. After all, if you are bound and determined to have a half dozen different sized boxes (supers, chambers . . . ?) then it follows that the frames should be designed to fit the boxes. But why ten frames for each four sided box? Wouldn't you just frame each wall, and therefore only need four frames for each box?

Well, whoever it was who wrote these instructions must have realized they were wrong about the ten frames in each box. However, rather than admitting their mistake, they tried to cover it up by saying that the foundation also came in a variety of sizes because it was meant to fit inside the various sized frames. Now, I'm no carpenter, but I know a foundation goes underneath a building, whether you're talking about a garage, a raised ranch, a skyscraper or for that matter a beehive, and you only need one. You certainly don't need ten for each story of your building, and you cannot

convince me that the foundation fits inside the frames. That's just ridiculous. Any fool who has ever seen a house being built knows that the frame goes on top of the foundation!

Finally, why on Earth would anyone want to put cement in a beehive in the first place? Of course cement. Weren't we just talking about foundations. Maybe it's used to shield the beekeepers from the radiation. What radiation? Why the radiation in the NUKE boxes, of course. Why else would they be called NUKE boxes?

Boy, I thought I was confused.

In English,
Please.

harold f boretz

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