
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 19 ISSUE 5

AUG / SEP 05

Another winter, another spring and now summer, how time goes by. I would think by now everyone has a good feeling for how their honey production year will be. I hope it went well or at least a lot better than mine did. I have gone from the best average per colony to the worst average per colony in just one year. Enough of my problems...

For those of you that missed our spring meeting, you missed a great event. Again my thanks to Bea Tassot and the Northwest branch for a great day. By the time you receive this newsletter, Mike Stanghelli will be gone from Rutgers, and I understand that Jake Mathenius (our point person with Rutgers) has been talking with Rutgers about a replacement.

For those that don't already know, Formic Acid (Mite-Away II) has been approved for use in the United States. I have asked Paul Raybold to look into getting New Jersey registered so we can begin using it here.

On July 16th, we will have our annual auction/picnic at my house. All are welcome and bring your bathing suits. The price is the same as last year, \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for ages 6-12 and those under age 6 are free. I must have a headcount by July 13th; you can reach me at 609-585-4359 or bobsbuzzybees@aol.com.

The Agenda for the day is as follows:

8:30 - 9:30	Coffee and Donuts
9:30 - 9:45	Business Meeting
9:45	Auction Begins

The menu for the day is as follows:

Fried Chicken
Barbecue Ribs
Potato Salad
Macaroni Salad
Variety of Desserts

The auction will be held in early morning with 20% of the sale going to the organization with a 2% discount to those who get pictures to our web master Janet Katz in time for her to publish them on our web site (no later than July 6).

Hopefully there will be a large turn out at the picnic this year.

Best of luck and have a happy, healthy, productive summer.

Sincerely,
Bob Hughes

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Susan Cobey and the New World
Carniolan® Breeding Program

M.T. Sanford

Retired Extension Beekeeping Specialist
Professor Emeritus University of Florida

<http://beeactor.vze.com>

There's something about *Apis mellifera carnica*, the Carniolan honey bee. This child of the Balkans, originally from Slovenia, the future site of the 2003 Apimondia Congress, holds a special place in the hearts of many beekeepers. Although a minor component of U.S. bee stock, it is the majority in other parts of the world from Egypt to Chile. It has a panopoly of characteristics that are increasingly important to beekeepers, including gentleness, less-than-average propolis collection, and little inclination to rob, the real bugaboo of its cousin, *Apis mellifera ligustica*, the Italian honey bee. It is known as the "spring" bee for it builds population rapidly early in the active season. More importantly it closes down its brood rearing quickly when environmental conditions deteriorate, resulting in less food consumption and a potentially increased winter survival. It is considered in many parts of the world as the best bee stock in which to find resistance or tolerance to the Varroa mite. Some of the first evidence of Varroa tolerance, in fact, came from a population of Carniolan bees in Yugoslavia described by Dr. Jovan Kulinčević, an associate of the late Dr. Walter Rothenbühler of The Ohio State University. This bee was subsequently introduced into the U.S. and is known as the "Yugo" bee.

Carniolan behavior, therefore, is equivalent to the "holy grail" in some beekeeping circles, and the *raison d'être* of the New World Carniolan® Breeding Program, run by Susan W. Cobey at The Ohio State University. Sue is easily

spotted in a crowd, as I recently noticed at the airport in Santiago, Chile. She is tall. This and her long blond locks stand out in Latin America, but it is her expertise and enthusiasm for bee breeding that beekeepers of that region and around the world really take notice of, and with good reason. Not only does she run one of the premier honey bee breeding programs in the U.S., but she is also the only person to my knowledge who is training others in this important arena.

Sue and I sat down in her office on the Ohio State University campus and her home in the environs of Hilliard, OH to discuss her career and aspirations. It is immediately apparent that, although greatly influenced by those at institutions of higher learning, she is not an “academic.” Sue is one of those rare people who easily spans the gap between the ivory tower of higher education and down-to-earth beekeeping. Her entomological career began early, when tent caterpillars she collected escaped to terrorize kindergarten class. She switched majors at the University of Delaware and graduated with a B.S. in entomology, her only academic degree. A student exchange program provided her first honey bee experience with Dr. Michael Burgett at Oregon State University, where she was able to first work outside and actually rear insects, instead of focusing on killing them with pesticides.

Her training really began by doing grunt beekeeping work at Wenner Apiaries, where she learned practical beekeeping management from Clarence Wenner himself, who she says was “a true naturalist.” Sue’s mentors in bee breeding include Dr. John Harbo, who taught her instrumental insemination, and Drs. Robert Page and Harry H. Laidlaw, who inculcated her with the philosophy of the closed population honey bee-breeding

protocol that bears their name.¹ She also had ample opportunity to participate in practical breeding programs as a technician at the now defunct Genetic Systems, Inc. in Labelle, FL, as well as those of the University of California at Davis and the USDA Bee Breeding and Stock Center at Baton Rouge, LA.

Enter her husband, Tim Lawrence. His influence was important to her career in that he helped “push” Sue out of her shell of “shyness.” He continues to support her as she travels the world teaching queen production and instrumental insemination. Together they developed the “idealistic dream” of their own beekeeping and fruit producing business in California’s Vaca Valley. However, they were victimized by unpredictable change that so often afflicts agriculture. Closure of the Canadian border in the 1980s because of discovery in the U.S. of both tracheal and Varroa mites meant loss of many key customers. At the same time, the Kiwi fruit market collapsed. By then, Sue had developed her passion for instrumental insemination, the basis for true bee breeding, and began to do and teach this on a limited basis, identifying a “niche market” for this activity. She assisted Dr. Orley (Chip) Taylor at the University of Kansas in his efforts to understand honey bee mating behavior, and was invited several times to Mexico, as that country attempted to confront the challenges of the introduced Africanized honey bee.

Uprooting themselves out of one of California’s finest valleys and moving to the U.S. heartland was difficult for both Tim and Sue. But a steady income and the opportunity to continue her breeding program at the Ohio State University as apiary technician was not easy to pass up. So in 1990, Sue became the Staff Apiarist at the Walter C. Rothenbuhler Honey Bee

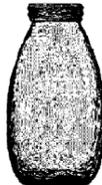
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Research Laboratory, where she coordinates research projects, continues her passion by producing New World Carniolan (NWC®) queens, and conducts classes in queen rearing and instrumental insemination. It seems somehow fitting that one of the best honey bee breeding programs in the U.S. is now administered from a building that bears the name of perhaps the greatest of apiculture's genetic pioneers.

Indeed, as we discussed the status of breeding programs around the world, I thought Walter would have been proud that many of the necessary links he described in his seminal paper on the topic have been put in place in the facility that bears his name.² In addition, he would also be happy that the University he worked at for over two decades now supports an innovative bee breeding program that is available nowhere else. And that it could be a model for a "new wave" of queen production, via true breeding, that might help the beekeeping industry recover Phoenix-like from the ashes of a potentially disastrous session on the pesticide treadmill.

Sue and I agree that the vast majority of queen producers do little breeding. This is not a criticism; producers must concentrate on production as their livelihood depends on sales out the front door. The driving force in the market is price. Beekeepers have been lulled into a false sense of security that good queens should be available relatively inexpensively. Although economical queens were readily available when there was a relatively large genetic base, which included feral honey bees and no exotic mites, that is no longer the case. The appearance of antibiotic tolerance (Terramycin®-resistant American

foulbrood) and resistance by Varroa to fluvalinate and coumaphos, along with appearance of a totally new organism, the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*), has turned U.S. apiculture on its ear. The long-range solution to these problems must come from bee genetics (breeding) and the resulting queens will not be cheap.

The results of Sue's New World Carniolan® Program are positive and encouraging. She has been able to develop bees that require no fumigillin for nosema control, no tracheal mite treatment, minimal chemical application for Varroa, and no antibiotic treatment for foulbrood. Sue and I agree that Varroa is the biggest problem facing beekeepers today. The most important task for any beekeeper in the present environment is to control this mite first. All other concerns must take a back seat.

The basis for any breeding program is stock selection. Thus, Sue and Tim originally collected bees from across the U.S. and Canada to establish their base population in the Vaca Valley of California. This initial genetic collection was moved to Ohio, a very different environment with harsh winters. Over time the stock has become adapted to those specific conditions, and Sue continues to search out genetic material to be incorporated into the program.

It is important to realize that Sue's program is based on traditional Carniolan behavior, not the vaunted Carniolan honey bee itself. This at first seems confusing, given the name. No morphometric, allozyme, cuticular hydrocarbon, nor DNA analysis is performed to verify the bee she uses is indeed *Apis mellifera carnica*. Nevertheless, Sue continues to select for darker bees in general, an indication of the Carniolan race, to ensure that the stock has a different look than that regarded

generally as Italian (yellow). The primary focus of selection is general performance, not specific individual traits, like hygienic behavior or SMR (suppressed mite reproduction), although these have been added to the criteria in the selection process. As she says, when describing her stock, “there’s no Russian, no Yugo and no SMR.”

Again, it is the behavior that Carniolan honey bees are known for that is of utmost importance in the New World Carniolan® Breeding Program. These include productivity, gentleness, and specifically for Ohio, winter hardiness. Since traits for “mite resistance” or “tolerance” are common, but rarely expressed or shown, they can be selected for in almost any stock. So this has also been incorporated into the program. Sue feels it is important for the industry to have choices via a variety of specialty stocks, of which hers is but one. A description of several, including New World Carniolan®, is found in an article by Dr. Stu Jacobson in the November 2002 issue of Bee Culture.

Sue’s secrets are simple. The keys are assiduously keeping records, controlling gene flow through instrumental insemination and a closed breeding population. The selected traits that are part of the New World Carniolan® Bee Breeding Program are the following:

Industry: Honey producers and pollinators. Those found susceptible to disease or mites are eliminated.

Rapid Spring Buildup: The signal trait of the Carniolan honey bee.

Gentleness: Calm, gentle and a pleasure to work with no matter the size of the population.

Overwintering: Efficient use of winter stores and winter clusters having a high tolerance for severe cold. Those that

dwindle and do not survive winter are automatically eliminated.

Pollen Collection: Efficient pollinators that work in cool and drizzly weather.

Brood Viability: Solid brood patterns to maintain the integrity of the breeding population.

Resistance to Parasitic Mites: Undetectable levels of tracheal mites; reduced levels of Varroa.

Hygienic Behavior: High uncapping and removing of brood killed by freezing.

Sue looks at the above criteria at a rather gross level. These estimates or evaluations are something any beekeeper can do. She has and continues to give her talk on the specific details of her system at many different venues across the world. These are also available on the World Wide Web.³ Importantly, they are done continuously so that each year a new generation of New World Carniolan® queens is instrumentally inseminated and then evaluated in the field. The top performing colonies are selected as breeders to establish the next generation in accordance with the Page-Laidlaw Closed Population Breeding Program.⁴

The bottom line, according to Sue, is annually producing a test population of 200 instrumentally inseminated queens. The better performers are then used as breeders and provided to cooperating New World Carniolan® producers, who sell open-mated daughters to the beekeeping public. This brings in about \$25,000 gross income each year, which the University allows Sue to spend in further developing the program. Clearly, it is heavily supported by the University, which in the final analysis is providing a subsidy to the beekeeping industry.

Sue knows that there is no way her program can supply the necessary quantity of stock to an industry hungry for a

selected honey bee that will enable it to gracefully exit an increasing chemical dependency. Thus, she sees her future in educating a cadre of individuals who will take on the task using the tools she and others have developed. Surprisingly, her message has been heard in other countries far more than in the U.S. Thus, she has worked mostly with producers in Mexico (Enrique Estrada, Ernesto Guzman), Chile (Alberto Poch), Argentina, Australia, South Africa, Egypt, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Canada.

The cornerstone of Sue's training program continues to be the courses she has developed in queen rearing, instrumental insemination and bee breeding offered each summer at The Ohio State University. These have been well attended by an able and willing corps of students, again mostly from outside the country, presumably aided by advertisement via the World Wide Web.⁵ In the future, she hopes to be able to deliver packaged courses on site that incorporate all of the pieces that now comprise her breeding program

In conclusion, Sue Cobey's goal is to help beekeepers develop a more professional and responsible beekeeping. As she said at the latest Eastern Apicultural Society meeting at Cornell University (August 2002), step-by-step beekeepers are emerging from the "hype" and "hyperbole" of crisis management, which has resulted in maintaining susceptible bees through chemical treatment. In the future, therefore, they will increasingly let the honey bee rely much more on its own devices through the results of conscious, committed breeding like those of the New World Carniolan® Bee Breeding Program.

References:

1. R.E. Page and H.H. Laidlaw. 1985. Closed Population Honey Bee Breeding Program. *Bee World*, Vol. 66, pp. 63-72.
2. W. C. Rothenbuhler. 1980. Necessary Links in the Chain of Honey-Bee Stock Improvement. *American Bee Journal*, Vol. 120, pp. 223-225, 304-305.
3. New World Carniolan Breeding Program, accessed November 12, 2002 <<http://www174.pair.com/birdland/Breeding/NWC.html>>
4. Cobey S. and T. Lawrence. 1988. Commercial Application and Practical Use of The Page-Laidlaw Closed Population Breeding Program. *American Bee Journal*, Vol. 128, Vol. 5, pp. 341-344.
5. The Ohio State University Honey Bee Breeding Program, accessed November 12, 2002 <http://www174.pair.com/birdland/Breeding/>

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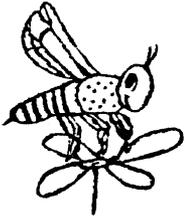
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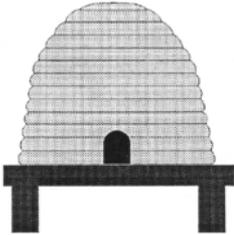
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identification of castes: queen, worker, drone; identification of brood, nectar, pollen and honey; honey bee life cycle and biology; distribution of labor and activities within the hive; economic importance of the honey bee: pollination; parasites, pests and diseases.

Students will wear full protective bee suits and gloves during hive manipulations. Limit: 12 students.

Instructor: Certified Master Beekeeper Grant Stiles, former NJ State Apiarist, commercial beekeeper and owner of Stiles Apiaries, President Essex County Beekeepers Society.

June 21, 2005; 10:00 am - 12:00 am.
Essex County Environmental Center,
621 B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland,
NJ 07068. Workshop fee: \$9

Essex County Teacher's Workshop

Of all the insects, the honey bee has the longest-standing relationship with and by far the greatest economic importance to mankind. Without the activities of this small creature, our day-to-day lives would be dramatically different. And yet the general public holds many misconceptions about the honey bee, misconceptions colored by fear and ignorance.

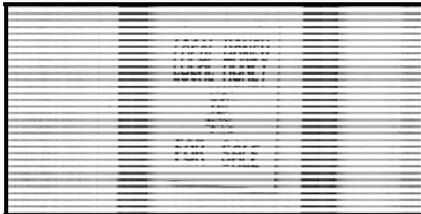
This workshop is intended to educate the educators. It is a hands-on look into the bee hive to provide teachers of all grade levels with a degree of comfort and knowledge they will gain only by actually handling honey bees.

The Workshop includes: hive components and beekeeping equipment; examination of a working honey bee colony, including



The decals are ready! Each branch has been given a supply of the new decals. The decals must be picked up by the Branch president or Secretary/Treasurer. Each Branch will dedcide how they will distribute them to the public. If your branch has not picked up their share of the decals there will be some available at Bob Hughes' at the picnic. Take advantage of this free (to the Branch) publicity tool!

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ASK THE EXPERTS!!

We are asking for input from the readers to determine if there is a desire for a regular column in which readers can ask questions of a field of “EXPERTS.” We will provide answers from the most knowledgeable, available, expert we can find. The answers should be enlightening, and perhaps amusing, to everyone.

NJBA MEETING DATES

July 16 NJBA Auction and Picnic
Bob Hughes', 706 Groveville-
Allentown Rd., Yardville, NJ 08620

Aug 13 Bug Bonanza
Liberty Science Center
Liberty State Park, Jersey City

CENTRAL JERSEY

Dec 3 2005 Christmas Party – Captains
Inn, Forked River, NJ

ESSEX COUNTY

Second Tuesday, except Jul, Aug.
Extensive schedule of events at Essex
County Environmental Center. Contact
Landi Simone for dates and topics.

MORRIS COUNTY

July 22, 23, 24 : Morris County 4H Fair,
Chubb Park, Chester. Demonstration hive.

NORTH EAST

Third Friday, 678 S. Maple Ave
Glen Rock

NORTH WEST

Summer meeting/picnic:
July 30 Deer Path Park
Warren County Fair Aug 1-7
Phillipsburg fair grounds

SUSSEX COUNTY

July 31 Fair set-up
Aug 5-14 Sussex County Fair

OTHER EVENTS

Liberty Science Center Bug Bonanza
2005 is set for Aug 13th, 1-4PM.
Presentation proposal is just about
ready to be released, requesting
activity description. Participants are
required to attend an orientation of
about 90 minutes in late July. NJBA
can set up bee beard, honey tasting,
hive observation using LSC
observation hive, etc with willing
volunteers. Paul Raybold has agreed
to do the bee beard.

Jul 22-30 Delaware State Fair,
Harrington

Aug 1-5 EAS Short Course and
Annual Meeting Kent State
Univ, Akron OH

October 1, 2005: NJBA Fall Meeting,
sponsored by Central Jersey
Beekeepers Association presents Sue
Cobey, New World Carniolan®
Breeding Program, Ohio State
University, and David Hackenberg,
Hackenberg Apiaries, Lewisburg, Pa.
Sue Cobey will speak on Queen and
Drone Rearing, and Bee Breeding and
the New World Carniolan® program.
David Hackenberg will speak about
formic acid and his experiences using
Mite-Away II™ which has recently
been approved for use in 26 states
including Pennsylvania and New York.
The meeting will take place at the
Rutgers EcoComplex, [Environmental
Research and Extension Center](#).
Please note the Rutgers EcoComplex
is near Pennsylvania and Delaware;
Pennsylvania and Delaware
Beekeepers are welcome so please
join us for a great meeting!!! The cost

is \$20.00. To make a reservation or more information please contact Ed Kosenski at 732 542-6528, or e-mail ekosenski@mac.com

More info next newsletter!!.

NEWSLETTER FAIRY and “staff” REVEALED

For those beekeepers who assume that the newsletter just magically appears in your mailbox, you should be aware that this “magic” occurs only because one of our members, along with her ‘staff’ of three, has volunteered to handle the mailing task once editor Vic Ammons has submitted his copy to the printer. After collecting eggs from her numerous chickens, Jamie Mirabito



came inside recently to work on the 400 or so newsletters that must be labeled and packaged for mailing before being dropped off at the “main” Ringoes Post office. The NJBA has switched to mailing using a non-profit bulk mail permit, which should save us about \$300 a year, but that requires that the mail be prepared “just so” before being delivered the

the PO. Shown below, after working on the labeling and preparation for mailing, are (l-r) Jamie, Bennett (hates having his picture taken), Elena, and Christian. Thanks to all!

Bee Sting Allergies?

Last summer, after taking many uneventful stings, I had an allergic reaction to a bee sting. This was not just local swelling, which can be unpleasant enough, but rashes on my arms and legs. I wondered if my choice was to either give up my bees or eventually get rushed to the hospital in anaphylactic shock, because the allergic reaction to a subsequent bee sting can be more serious. I got another bee sting, and indeed the rashes were more serious. I went to an allergist, who told me that desensitization shots for bee stings are quick to take effect and covered by my medical insurance.

So in December I started receiving a shot a week, by April I was medically ready to get stung, and by June I will be going only once every six weeks. Do the shots work? Well, last weekend two bees got tangled in my hair as I was gardening near the hives, and of course they gave me some free allergy shots. Please notice that I did not die at all; in fact, I didn't get even a bump.

Margaret Mainardi

NJBA NEWS Annual Ad rates

Ad size	Location of ad	Price
Full page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$150
1/2 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$100
1/4 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$75
1/8 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$50
Full page	rest of newsletter	\$100
1/2 page	rest of newsletter	\$75
1/4 page	rest of newsletter	\$50

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NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Membership Form

Note: Memberships start in January and expire in December

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Renewal

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