
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 19 ISSUE 6

OCT / NOV 05

Hot Hot Hot

As of this date (Aug 18), the weather has been extremely hot; as I am sure all of you know. I hope that you had a chance to pull your honey on the few cool days we had, I didn't. Now it's crunch time for me.

I understand that several candidates have been interviewed by Rutgers to fill the vacancy created by Mike Stanghellini's departure, but the position has not been filled. Maybe more info will be available at our next meeting.

We had a great time at our picnic and I had a chance to talk with a few of you. (Very busy day for me.) Much thanks to my faithful helpers - Barbara / Pat Ricci , Cathy / Ken Adoniz, Cheri / Len Klinker, Jake Matthenius & Curtis Crowell. (You sure make my job easier.) The details will also be presented at our next meeting.

At the picnic I mentioned the fact that we, the N.J.B.A. had made 2 commitments this year. First being the Honey Harvest at the N.J.Ag. Museum, which I would head up, and second the Bug Fest at the Liberty Science Center that Paul Raybold said he would head up. I asked for volunteers to help us. I received 1 and Paul received none. I find it very interesting that as a group at our state meetings we all thump our chests saying what this organization is all about educating the public, having decals made for distribution and as soon as we leave the meeting, all is forgotten. Almost 400 members and one volunteer?

As things worked out, Cynthia Werts (The Volunteer), Nicole Wagenblast, our Honey Queen, and I did the Honey Harvest. Thanks Cynthia and Nicole.

As for the Bug Fest. The Liberty Science center never contacted us (Paul) until a couple of days before the event and because of this we had to decline as we had not made any preparations for the event, not knowing what they expected of us. In turn they asked if we would put on a program over the Labor Day Weekend. More at our next meeting.

Talking about meetings. Central Jersey Chapter is hosting our next state meeting. Central Jersey member Ed Kosenski has been asked to provide an agenda for the meeting and it looks as though he has done an excellent job. More on another page.

We still have 1 meeting slot open for next year, our 2006 spring meeting. The state organization at its last meeting passed a ruling stating that any chapter which was willing to sponsor a state meeting could ask the state to help with financing the costs so as to make it easier on the chapter. There are 8 chapters in the state, and I would hope that a branch would like to put together a nice program to showcase your area.

Have a great summer. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Oct. 1st, meeting

Bob Hughes

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BAR CODES FOR SMALL BEEKEEPERS

The first President George Bush (senior) experienced a grocery scanner first hand in 1992 (to his amazement), but for most of us scanners and the bar codes that drive them have been familiar for some time. Their ease of use, and most importantly for retailers, the improved access to inventory data that has been provided by computer-readable product data is immeasurable. How many of us have inquired about a particular item, and have had a clerk tell us "the computer says we should have xx left?" Nowadays even the manual taking of inventory is much easier, thanks for hand held, wireless scanners that allow employees to inventory in minutes what used to take hours of manual tabulation and subsequent data entry.

This brings me to an issue that has interested me for some time, namely, how can a small beekeeper like myself label his honey with the same barcodes as the big guys? I'm interested in technology (although I still use wax foundation and wire my frames) but my interest stems from fundamental laziness (why should the clerk have to look up the price each time, or label every single jar of honey when I deliver a case?).

The short answer is that any beekeeper with a computer less than five years old and a decent printer can in fact bar code his products and have a retailer's POS (Point of Sale) software identify the product (such as "Fall honey, 16 ounces") and the retail price. The longer answer is that some BIG retailers, such as WalMart and Wegmans, stipulate that your bar code be a "certified" bar code, which involves an application fee as well as an annual maintenance fee to ensure that your code is reserved for you alone. If you

are a small producer (like myself) and sell your products only through smaller retailers where bar code certification is not stipulated, you can use bar codes for your products as long as those codes do not coincide with codes already in use by other products for sale by the same retailer. For example, in New Jersey it is highly unlikely that a grocer of any size whatsoever will be offering both food and firearms, so if you used a bar code for your one pound jars that happened to coincide with the code for a Smith & Wesson .38 Snub Nose Police Special, you would have no problems. Of course, chain saws, pool chemicals, and router bits are also good candidates for bar codes that won't cause problems at most (but not all) retailers selling bee products. At the end of the article I'll discuss the nuts and bolts of how to do just that.

First, some background on bar codes themselves. They were first developed by two graduate students at the Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia in the late 1940's: Bernard Silver and Norman Woodland. Neither of these men made much money on their patent, but Woodland was awarded the 1992 National Medal of Technology by then President Bush.



In 1969 an organization called the Grocery Manufacturer's of America decided that some standards had to be applied to the expanding use of these codes, and they assembled a group of manufacturers to proceed to develop a standard that became the Universal Product Code or "UPC" to be managed by the "Uniform Grocery Product

Code Council", which in turn became the "Uniform Code Council" (still with only U.S. jurisdiction) now calling itself "GS 1 US."

In order to obtain a certified UPC code from the GS 1 US organization you will be required to supply an estimate of your gross sales revenue. For a beekeeper with annual sales estimated at \$2,500 the fee to become a member of the Uniform Code Council (they still use the old organization's designation in their documentation, which is confusing) would require an initial fee of \$750, with an "expected" annual fee of \$150 thereafter (to prevent them from giving your assigned code to someone else). For this amount you get a unique "company code," and, within that, a range of 100 unique product codes that you can assign.

Our Canadian friends to the North don't fare much better, and I believe their up front fees are higher than those being asked of US firms interested in certified bar codes. It is odd that here in the US, the Internal Revenue Service does not charge for assigning tax id numbers for businesses. They just want you to "do business," then pay taxes. It occurs to me that a code system that used as a company code the IRS number followed by some range of numbers for product determination would put the whole "US GS 1" group out of business! But that's probably too much common sense.

Independent musicians have dealt with this problem, as in order to distribute their cds to retailers in a retailing environment, which is heavily automated, they need to bar code their products. In response, a "cottage industry" has been created whereby a firm legitimately registers a UPC code as a company, then sells off individual company-product codes (a practice (Continued on page 5.)

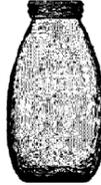
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disdained by GS 1 US, but which appears to be grudgingly tolerated.

Here is the bottom line: You want to sell your bee products with a bar code that will be recognized by a small retailer with a bar code capable Point of Sale (POS) system. You must purchase a software product that will print labels for a bar code that you specify directly. You can find them for less than \$15-20 on ebay or other online merchants.

These are stand-alone products that just print the code labels, more expensive software would allow you to integrate your bar code within other label graphics, but that's up to you. Print a sheet of bar codes (I use the small return address label stock, 60 labels per sheet) that you picked by finding the code for a product that your retailer will never sell (how about zip drives?).

When you deliver your products the next time, your retailer will "teach" his POS system by reading the bar code(s) you have chosen, and you're done. Remember that your retailer's POS system resides on a computer on his/her site that is not connected with the GS 1 US organization, since the database of all product codes is constantly changing and expanding. Once your production expands to a point where you want to register officially with "GS 1 US" (or whatever name they go by then) you can do so, and then change your bar code labels accordingly once you have a "certified" code.

Submitted by Curtis Crowell

Beekeepers Receive Partial Settlement For Pesticide Spraying

(Beyond Pesticides, August 3, 2005) Minnesota beekeepers receive over \$300,000 compensation from the Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for losses incurred from negligent pesticide spraying of carbaryl. The majority of the case is still pending against International Paper and a spray applicator.

The settlement reached between the Minnesota beekeepers and the DNR includes payment to the Minnesota beekeepers of \$335,000 for damages to commercial beehives caused by the spraying of carbaryl (tradename Sevin) sprayed on trees enrolled in the Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The insecticide Sevin is a carbamate pesticide that remains toxic to bees long after it's applied.

As part of the settlement, the DNR agreed to help prevent future harm from the pesticide by educating landowners on carbaryl's harmful effects to bees and advise against its use. The settlement also states that the agency will refrain from using the pesticide on CRP hybrid poplar trees and must give 90 days notice if pesticide use resumes. Sources say the DNR will be working with the North American Pollinator Protection Coalition to co-write a pollinator protection brochure to further inform landowners.

In the late 1990s, Minnesota beekeepers began to notice high mortality rates and sharp declines in honey production of commercial beehives in range of CRP trees that are regularly sprayed with various pesticides and herbicides. In March 2005, the MN Supreme Court ruled that landowners who sprayed pesticides on the tree groves could be held liable for damages to beekeepers' neighboring apiaries.

The court further upheld that regardless of prior opinions that foraging bees are "trespassers," a landowner with knowledge or notice of foraging honey bees on the property is still responsible to provide reasonable care in the application of pesticides.

While the settlement is a great victory for beekeepers in Minnesota and elsewhere, a large part of the problem still remains. Beekeepers nationwide have long had problems with the mass spraying of pesticides. The label on a pesticide toxic to bees currently states that it should not be applied if bees are either "visiting" or "actively visiting" the area, depending on the pesticide's residual toxicity. The problem rests both in the language on the label that does not clarify what the terms actually mean, and subsequently, in the enforcement of the label.

The head pesticide enforcement officer with MN Department of Agriculture, testifying as an expert witness in the original case, held that the label was never technically violated. The officer claimed that the label states a violation would occur only when there is "a significant number of actively foraging bees" but failed to quantify his interpretation of the term significant. Beekeepers argue that such an interpretation never allows for a violation. Still, a synopsis of close to 500 applicator records of carbaryl in the contested area of Minnesota showed more than 90 percent of pesticide applications were made midday – the prime time for pollinators to be present.

One of the proposed solutions to the label bee caution problem submitted to the EPA under comments for carbaryl is for the label to avoid the quantification of bees by prohibiting pesticide application when the bloom that attracts the bees is present. (See Beyond Pesticides website for comments submitted to EPA regarding carbaryl.) According to the plaintiff, applications do not have to be made during times of bloom.

Environmentalists and others have called upon EPA to cancel the registration of carbaryl due to its excessive array of health and environmental hazards.

Bees play an essential ecological function in both agriculture and wildland areas. Alarming bee shortages have been reported in recent years and though the causes may be various, bees are known to be extremely sensitive to many pesticides used regularly in agriculture, parks, outdoor playgrounds, recreation areas, forests, and for mosquito control.

Though some compensation has been ordered by the court, the beekeepers say they are continuing with the case toward putting a stop to the flagrant violations against pollinators from negligent pesticide spraying in Minnesota, with repercussions likely throughout the country.

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Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP
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QUESTIONS FOR THE EXPERTS

We are starting a new column in this newsletter that will accept questions from the readers and replies from any of the NJBA "EXPERTS" who would like to help out a fellow beekeeper. Cynthia Werts has the honor of submitting the first question. If you would like to submit a question, but do not want your name to appear, simply ask for your name to be withheld. Annonomous questions will not be printed because the editor cannot confirm it is a valid request. This month's first question – "Will my bees produce more honey if I remove frames of honey as the bees cap them in May, June and July? Would waiting to extract all at once produce the same amount?"

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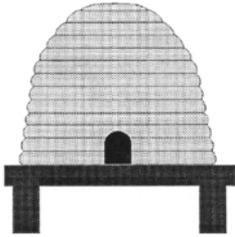
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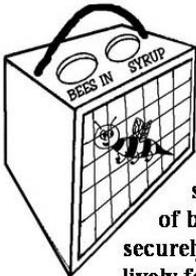
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MEAD WORKSHOP

Delaware Valley College will be holding its annual mead making workshop Thursday, October 6, 2005, at 7:00 PM. Dalaware Valley College is located on Rt 202 just south of Doylestown, PA.

The workshop will be held in the Bee House. Directions to the Bee House are available at the Security Office, immediately on the right when you enter the college.

If you have any homemade mead you would like to share, please bring it with you. Additional information may be obtained by calling Dr Berthold, who will be running the workshop, at 215-345-6556. Hope to see you there.

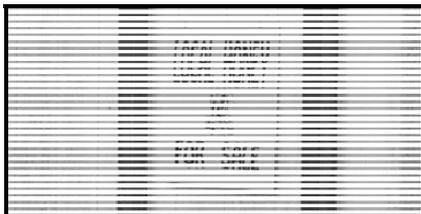
SAD NEWS:

The NJBA has been made aware of the deaths of Bernie Sclar, a member of C.J.B.A and Bruce Thompson, a member of S.J.B.A. We would like to extend our condolences to their families.

Pictures of Nicole at the August 13th Ag. Convention Honey Fest



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Announcement:

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, Bordentown, NJ
<http://ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/>.

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.

Reservations must be received by September 23, 2005!!

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Ed Kosenski, 732 542-6528, or e-mail ekosenski@mac.com.

NJBA MEETING DATES

Oct 1, NJBA Fall Meeting
Sue Cobey and New World
Carniolan. See page 11.

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

OTHER EVENTS

Oct 6, 7 PM. Mead workshop, Delaware
Valley College, Doylestown, PA. Contact
Dr. Bob Berthold, 215-345-6556.

Jan 11 thru 14, American Beekeeping
Federation Convention, Hyatt Regency,
Louisville, KY

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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

Reflections on EAS
by Landi Simone

This year's EAS at Kent State, Ohio was marked by terrific speakers, fine exhibitors, wonderful bee people, and lousy food. We put up with the lousy food without too many complaints because the price was right. EAS accommodations and pricing were very reasonable this year, prompting a good contingent from New Jersey to attend.

Fellow Jerseyans sharing the 50th EAS anniversary bash included Dave and Anne Peregmon, Ray Markley, Frank "Woodie" Wooden - all regulars. Gerd Boenke and his lovely new bride Larisa were there, and so was Wolfgang Kuehn. Jake and Bea Matthenius drove out, too, and that was pretty special, as Jake hasn't attended in quite a while.

This landmark EAS was characterized by a look back at the past 50 years. The cover of the program book was a collage of photos from past years, including a much younger Jake Matthenius sporting a lot more dark hair than he has nowadays. (Did you know that Jake was once both Chairman and President of EAS? He was honored at the opening ceremonies, when all the past Chairpeople and Presidents were invited to share their thoughts on EAS, and again at the Awards Dinner on Friday night at the close of the conference.) A look inside the program was a step back in time, with historical anecdotes and photos giving us a chance to take a peek at the roots of this

annual event some of us have become addicted to.



EAS had humble beginnings. It started in 1954 as a rather elaborate beekeepers meeting, organized by the Rhode Island Beekeepers' Club President, J. Gaston Levitre, at the University of Rhode Island. Beekeepers from Connecticut and Massachusetts were invited to attend and a host of well-known speakers entertained and informed attendees. One of those speakers, USDA scientist James Hambleton, was so impressed with the event that he wrote to George Abrams of the University of Maryland, proposing that a similar event be held somewhere on the Eastern seaboard every year. Abrams responded enthusiastically to the idea, the next EAS was held in Maryland, and the fledgling organization took flight.

I'm so grateful it did. This is hard to describe to someone who has never been there, but I feel exactly the same as Dr. Dewey Caron shared when he spoke in the opening ceremony: EAS is like coming home. I've only been attending a few years - this was my fourth EAS - and yet, in that short time, I've made so many friends at this event and learned so much that I never want to miss another one. Bee people are special. They're flaky, creative, and very down-to-earth. They enjoy simple things - good food, good friends, gentle bees and walks in the woods - and they're utterly unpretentious. This goes for the scientists and big honchos as well as the run of the mill bee guys and gals like me. What it means in terms of EAS is that any of us can

sit down at a table with the likes of Jim Tew, Clarence Collison or Maryann Frasier and strike up a conversation. Because they're bee people, just like us. And not only are they fun to be with, but if you choose to pick their brains you find there's a LOT in there!

Let me give you an example.

The first morning, I left my dorm room to take the 5-minute trek to the Student Center, wherein awaited breakfast and later events. I found myself catching up to an elderly gentleman, obviously another bee person (you can just tell), but not wearing his name tag/meal ticket. So I said hello and asked when he'd gotten in and where he was from. Turned out he'd arrived late the previous evening from South Dakota. The conversation instantly turned to bees. He wanted to know about mine, so I told him and confided that I had started raising queens this year but was having some trouble with it. He wanted to know about the troubles. He had a little experience with queens and maybe he could help. So we talked, lingering outside the Student Center as young college students zipped off in different directions around us. He was a real charming fellow with a midwestern twang and a lopsided smile. And it was clear that he had more than "a little" experience raising queens. In about ten minutes he had identified the things I needed to change in my operation and told me just what to do. Eventually, we went to part ways: he to the registration table, I to breakfast, and I realized I didn't know his name, so I asked.

"Oh, I'm Richard Adee."

"Aren't you one of the speakers?"

"Yeah, I guess they've got me doing that."

I'd just struck up an acquaintance with the largest commercial beekeeper in the United States. Richard and his two sons run about 90,000 colonies of bees. When I got home, I used his suggestions for my

next batch of queens, got the best acceptance, and the biggest cells of the entire season.

You learn more about your own people at EAS also. One day I was sitting having lunch with Gerd, Larissa, and Wolfgang, and Wolfgang told us a story of how his family escaped from East Germany during the war. Wolfgang was just a teenager.

The Berlin wall hadn't been built but a huge area had been cleared where it would go. Wolfgang's father had angered the authorities by a chance remark but had managed to escape to the west and make plans for his wife, Wolfgang and his young sister to join him. They left one night, each carrying a bag of possessions. As the strongest, Wolfgang was given his mother's Pfaff sewing machine, which he had in a backpack. My mother has one of these black cast iron monsters. I know it well. She calls me everytime she wants to use it as it's so heavy she can't even take it out of its case. The Kuehns escaped with a group of others, but something went wrong and soldiers began to shoot at them as they ran across the clearing. They made it to the other side uninjured, but later on, when they unpacked, Wolfgang found a hole in the fabric of his backpack, and a chip in the cast iron of the sewing machine. Had he not been carrying it, sixteen year old Wolfgang would have died fleeing East Berlin, shot in the back. Then who would have won all the NJ Best in Show ribbons for all those years?

It was a soggy conference. Bob Cole wept openly as he spoke during the opening ceremonies. Mark Winston wept as he delivered his talk, "Writing Bees," and spoke of his intention to stop writing his regular Bee Culture column and move on to other endeavors. Dewey announced his upcoming retirement in another year, and a possible move to Bolivia. That made *me* cry, as I can't imagine our area without Dewey. And on the other end of the spectrum, Jim Tew made his usual magic

at the Awards dinner and had us all laughing hard enough to either cry or lose control of our bladders. Either way, we were wet.

Fortunately, the weather wasn't too soggy. It was hot, but the Student Center was air conditioned, and we only had one morning where it rained. The workshops in the bee yard were able to take place without a glitch. Jake presided over a number of the apiary activities, and, although I didn't make it to the bee yard, I heard he enjoyed himself enormously, scorning any kind of protective gear, and doing some kind of juggling act with bee-covered frames.

Perhaps the reports were a big exaggerated, but who knows?

And we reaped the benefits of all the hard work of Kim Flottum, Kathy Summers and crew in putting together the conference - topics like, "Weird Queens," by Joe Latshaw, and Hambleton Award winner Stanley Schneider's, "The Vibration Signal and The Organization of Labor in Honey Bee Colonies." There were talks on genetics, swarming, formic and oxalic acids, pheromones, survival splits, insurance and contracts, small hive beetle, apitherapy and creamed honey. You name it, someone spoke about it. We even got "Cooking a Gourmet Meal" (with honey, of course!) by Ireland's Michael Young, a real charmer if I've ever met one.



And I saw a black squirrel. Did you know Ohio has black squirrels? Can't wait for EAS 2006 in Georgia. Hope to see you there.

Do you know new beekeepers? Sign them up today with this form!

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mail you dues to **your** Branch Secretary/Treasurer listed below

Junior, \$ 8

Individual, \$15

Family, \$20

Central Jersey - Curtis Crowell - 152 Borad St, Hightstown, NJ 08520

Essex County - Marian Chandler - 85 Deerfield Rd., West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Jersey Cape - Bill Eisele - 310 Old Tuckahoe Rd, Petersburg, NJ 08270

Morris County - Janet Katz - 460 Route 24, Chester, NJ 07930

North East - Karl Schoenknecht - 683 Summit Ave, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

North West Jersey - Karin Weinberg - 337 Tunnel Rd, Asbury, NJ 08802-1120

South Jersey - Patty Schuler - PO Box 228, Richland, NJ 08350

Sussex County - Marion Stickle - 12 Crystal Spring Rd. Hamburg, NJ 07419

When it's not beekeeping but bee removal.....consider calling

The Beeman

Your customers like to talk about bees and honey, nectar and flowers, but when it comes to ladders and second story soffits, sheetrock, crawl space, old insulation, attic knee-walls and the like, you can easily spend a lot of time at bee removal with no time to either talk about or even sell bee products.

Let me do the work

I charge reasonable rates, and if you make the referral I will give you the swarm if at all possible.



Robert "Beeman" Simonofsky
(member of the North West Branch of NJBA)

(908)-730-0830

Pager: (908) 707-7894—*after the bees enter
your phone number followed by the # sign*

New Jersey Beekeepers Association
Victor Ammann
685 Montgomery Rd
Lindenborough, NJ 08544

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