



The Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers Association Yard

BEAVER VALLEY AREA BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2011

Combined Outyard Picnic—July 9th from 12 noon-3 p.m.

The **Beaver Valley Area Beekeeper's Association** and **Burgh Bees** will host a joint bee picnic on **July 9th from 12 noon—3 p.m.**



PA State Bee picnic out near Portersville, PA a few years ago hosted by BVABA.

Burgh Bees member, Gary Sekinger, has graciously offered his barn (directions follow) as the picnic location. This is a potluck event and we ask you to bring a salad, side

dish or dessert along with the necessary serving pieces and utensils. Both clubs will provide chicken as the main course as well as refreshments and paper products (unless you care to 'GREEN' and bring your own plates and silverware.)

TASTE OF HONEY CONTEST...

To showcase foods and drinks made with honey as an ingredient. Bring your favorite dish containing honey for the judges to taste and you may take home one of the fabulous prizes to be awarded!

Gary Sekinger's house and barn are at 1602 Royal Oak Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143 (near

Diamond's Run Golf Course). You can find good directions from your house to Gary's on Google maps — <http://maps.google.com>.

Traveling from I-2 79: Take Exit 8, Camp Horne Road and make a slight right onto Camp Horn Rd. Turn left onto Mt. Nebo Rd. (1.7 mi.), turn right onto Mc Aleer Rd. (1.1 mi.), and take the first right onto Royal Oak Dr.

Traveling on I-79: Take Exit 68, Mt. Nebo Rd. and head away from Sewickley. For most of you this will be a right turn onto Mt. Nebo Rd. Turn left onto Nicholson Rd. (.6 mi.), turn right onto Montgomery Rd. (1.3 mi.). Take the first left onto Royal Oak Rd.

WE HAVE 28 RSVP'S TO DATE!

Won't you consider coming? Give Kerry Kearney a call 724-378-8693 or an e-mail (kkearney@verizon.net). Let her know what food you will be bringing to share and how many folks will be coming with you.

August 13—Open Regular Meeting at Millvale Sportsmen Club

The August 13th BVABA regular meeting is an open meeting in which other local bee clubs are welcomed to attend. The open meeting will be held at the Millvale Sportsman Clubhouse (www.millvalesportsmens.com) in order to make it easier for other clubs to join us. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. covering regular business and the speaker, Warren Miller, President of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association will follow the business meeting. Warren was featured in the latest issue of American Bee Journal, describing his unique method of chemical free beekeeping. From 3– 5 p.m. we will have a cash bar and pizza so there will be plenty of opportunity to rub) and bend) elbows with other W. PA beekeepers!

Rob Steffes

2010-11 BVABA Club Officers

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Bear Photo's from Leicher's Farm in Butler Spark Memories



The recent photo's shared by member Barry Leicher of a black bear invasion in his apiary was e-mailed by Bill Mc Vay (another club member) to a friend. This was the delightful response!

"Bill, you brought back memories!"

"If there's a buzzing noise, somebody's making a buzzing noise, and the only reason for making a buzzing noise that I know of is because you're a bee." The he thought for a long time, and said, "And the only reason for being a bee that I know of is making honey." And then he got up, and said, "And the only reason for making honey is so I can eat." So he began to climb the tree.

He climbed and he climbed and as he climbed he sang a little song to himself and it went like this:

Isn't it funny

How a bear likes honey?

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

Then he climbed a little further...

And a little further... and then just a little further. By that time he had thoughts of another song:

It's a very funny thought that if bears were bees, they'd build their nests at bottoms of trees.

And that being so (if bees were bears),

We shouldn't have to climb up all those stairs.

He was getting rather tired by this time, so that is why he sang a Complaining Song. He was nearly there now, and if he just stood on that branch...

Crack!

"Oh, help!" said Pooh, as he dropped ten feet on the branch below him.

If only I hadn't—" he said, as he bounced twenty feet on to the next branch.

"You see what I meant to do," he explained, as he turned head-over-heels, and crashed onto another branch thirty feet below, "what I meant to do —

'of course it was rather — " he admitted, as he had slithered very quickly through the next six branches.

"It all comes, I suppose", he decided as he said good-bye to the last branch and spun around three times, and flew gracefully into a gorse bush, "it all comes of liking honey so much. Oh, help!"

He crawled out of the gorse bush, brushed the prickles from his nose and began to think again. And the first person he thought of was Christopher Robin.

From Winnie the Pooh

<http://htmlbooks.narod.ru/books/miln/eng/1.htm>

IF BEARS WERE
BEES, THEY'D
BUILD THEIR
NESTS AT
BOTTOMS OF
TREES...

Articles and websites to visit...

- Marla Spivak— article in Reader's Digest May 2011 - submitted by member Idamae Gower.
- Balsa Tree blooms in dry season in Panama providing nectar for bees, in National Geographic, May 2011—submitted by member Dave Harcum.
- Swarms and how to address them—an article in Bee Culture Magazine, May 2011— submitted by member Bill Mc Vay.
- Honeybee losses continue to hit beekeepers—in Farm and Dairy Magazine, May 25, 2011 —submitted by Bill Mc Vay. <http://www.farmanddairy.com/news/honey-bee-losses-continue-to-hit-commercial-hobby-beekeepers/25300.html>.



PA State Beekeeping Picnic—July 22+23, 2011

The summer state beekeeping picnic is being hosted by the York County Beekeepers. As the PA State Beekeeping newsletter reports, Friday will host tours of Gettysburg and Mary Chronister's Farm. Saturday will involve picnic food, hive tool and smoker competitions, honey judging, quilt raffle, bee testing for nosema and a lot of time to meet other beekeepers from around the state. As always, the state picnic involves an educational speaker or two. The picnic itself on Saturday will be at Lower Allen Community Park in Mechanicsburg. For those traveling and needing rooms, the Days Inn in New Cumberland has a block of rooms for those traveling in for the picnic. Just be sure to mention you are there for the state beekeepers gathering.

For more information you can go to the state beekeeping site at www.pastatebeekeepers.org or e-mail questions to Jeremy Barnes at honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com



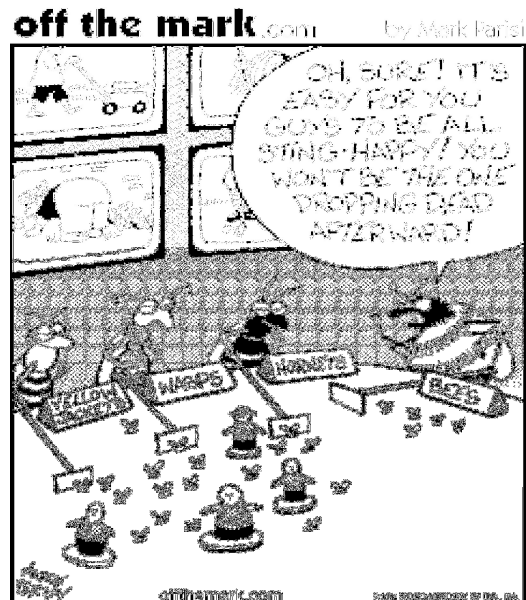
Larva being tended to by worker bees.
Photo by: Member—Barry Leicher

Southeastern Honeybee Symposium

A educational seminar on honeybee care will be held on Saturday, October 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Temple University, Ambler Campus, 580 Meetinghouse Rd., Ambler, PA.

Speakers for the seminar will be Tammy Horn, Phd.; Randy Oliver, MS., David Tarpy, Phd.

Registration will be \$50 at the door / \$40 for early registration and \$40 for students. The registration fee includes lunch. Registration can be made at the Montgomery County Beekeepers site which is www.montcobeekkeepers.org



First Ever Queen Bee Pot-Luck at Steffes Wood Apiary

A busy swarm of Pittsburgh-area women beekeepers arrived at SteffesWood Apiary in Aliquippa, Saturday afternoon, June 4th to share beekeeping know-how and some fantastic food, including this delightfully decorated and delicious tart de citron (lemon tart) made by Danielle Marvit. Danielle is a baker at [La Gormandine](http://LaGormandine.com) in Lawrenceville and is a partner in [Churchview Farm](http://ChurchviewFarm.com) (busy woman!).

Besides checking out the hives for eggs & larva; seeing of the bees needed more room, etc., the women beekeepers enjoyed all of the wonderful dishes they each brought to add to their potluck menu.

They called this the first ever Western PA Queen Bee Pot luck, but they were much more like worker bees than queen bees! Taken from the Steffes Wood Apiary blog at:

<http://steffeswoodapiary.blogspot.com/2011/06/women-beekeepers-potluck.html>



The Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers Association Yard

An Introduction to Integrated Pest Management for Honey Bee Pests

Nicholas Calderone

April 1999

IPM enables us to accomplish by finesse, that which we cannot achieve by brute strength alone.'

'To survive, beekeepers must learn to manage pest populations in a manner that is not only effective and affordable in the short run, but also safe and sustainable in the long run.'

'The years 1984 and 1987 were watershed years in beekeeping. They marked a loss of innocence.'

'Pesticides in the absence of a rational pattern of pesticide use cannot and will not provide a sustainable solution to any pest problem.'

This article is the first in what I hope will be a useful series on the management of honey bee pests, parasites, pathogens and predators, or, more simply, pests. My goal is to encourage beekeepers to approach pest management in a systematic manner using methods based on the principles of IPM – that's Integrated Pest Management. IPM, as I hope to convince you, provides the best long-term solution to the problems that challenge beekeeping today. Make no mistake, the problems we face are industry-threatening and difficult to solve. To survive, beekeepers must learn to manage pest populations in a manner that is not only effective and affordable in the short run, but also safe and sustainable in the long run. Without an underlying philosophy to guide our pest management decisions, we will fall short of those goals, and major sectors of the beekeeping industry may become little more than a historical curiosity.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Back in 1977, I had the good fortune to find work at one of the world's premiere honey bee research labs - the lab of Professor Walter C. Rothenbuhler at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. It was not by accident that I ended up working for Doc, as we all called him. Several years earlier, I had taken a class in apiculture taught by Dr. Tom Rinderer, then, one of Doc's Ph.D. students and now the head of the USDA-ARS bee research lab in Baton Rouge. Tom was an engaging teacher who stimulated my interest in bees so much that I decided to become a beekeeper and to return to school to pursue a degree in apiculture – Doc was my advisor. When I completed my degree, I leapt at the chance to work as his beekeeping technician.

I worked closely with Vic Thompson, Doc's colleague of nearly 25 years. Vic managed the bees, but after a couple of years of apprenticeship, he gradually turned that job over to me. I ran between 150 and 250 hives to support the lab's research programs. I remember Vic telling me one day that he had never used antibiotics for control or treatment of AFB or EFB. Vic kept the incidence of AFB below ½ % by using careful management techniques, and he was proud of that accomplishment. It was not that Vic was a purist who didn't believe in using chemicals. Far from it. We routinely used ethylene dibromide (EDB) for controlling wax moths, much to my dismay. No, Vic had figured out that he was best off managing diseases without chemicals.

Back then, AFB was the only big problem. Today, we have tracheal mites, varroa mites and the small hive beetle, and chemicals play an essential role in the management of those problems. When you add it all up, we use chemicals for just about everything, including nosema, AFB, EFB, the tracheal and varroa mites, the small hive beetle, and the wax moth. Problems have simply come upon us faster than we have been able to solve them, and we have become chemically dependent.

As I look at beekeeping today, I think back to my days with Vic and Doc at Ohio State. They were good beekeepers who limited their use of chemicals whenever possible. I think their success holds lessons for beekeepers today, even as we struggle to survive in a very different and more complicated world. So, let us get started by looking at how IPM can help beekeeping remain a viable and competitive enterprise in the coming century.

JARGON

Every field of study comes complete with its own jargon, and IPM is no different. Therefore, if we are going to talk about developing and implementing IPM strategies for honey bee pests, we need to be familiar with a few basic terms. The key words for today are: integrated pest management, pest population density, economic injury level, LD50, chemical resistance, pest resistance, quality assurance, and sustainable:

integrated pest management: an approach to managing pests that is based on the coordinated use of one or more methods and that seeks to minimize chemical inputs

pest population density: a measure of the size of the pest population relative to the size of the crop, in our case, bees; population density may be measured in terms of the number of mites per 300 adult bees, or the number of cells of chalk brood per 100 cells of brood.

IPM Management continued...

economic injury level - EIL: the lowest pest population density that causes economic damage

LD50: the dose of a chemical that causes the death of 50% of a test population. LD50's are specific to the formulation being tested (pure chemical, dust, emulsifiable concentrate) and the route of entry (dermal, oral, inhalation). We can measure LD50's in terms of milligrams of chemical per kilogram of test organism, or mg/kg. A milligram is 1/1,000 of a gram. A kilogram is 1,000 grams. LD50's for highly toxic chemicals are measured in terms of micrograms of chemical per kilogram of test organism, or ug/kg. A ug is equal to 1/1,000,000 of a gram. LD50's can be measured in terms of LC50's and LT50's, although this is less precise. Toxicity is also measured in terms of LC50's and LT50's, reflecting the concentration of a chemical or the time of exposure to a specific dose or concentration of a chemical

chemical resistance: the ability of a strain of a species to tolerate or avoid factors that would prove fatal to or reduce the productivity of the majority of strains of that species. More narrowly, a condition in which a population of a pest species that has been exposed to a chemical has an LD50 for that chemical that is significantly higher than the corresponding LD50 in an unexposed population – the chemicals involved can be pesticides or antibiotics.

pest resistance: the ability of a strain of a species to maintain productivity, relative to the majority of strains of that species, when infested with a pest

quality assurance: a systematic program for ensuring that all products conform to a well-defined set of quality standards.

sustainable: a process that can be conducted indefinitely.

WHAT IS IPM?

The AFB management program I had learned at OSU was an example of a pest management concept called IPM, short for Integrated Pest Management. IPM is a philosophy for managing, not necessarily eliminating, agricultural pests so that the pest population density does not exceed the economic injury level. IPM programs originated in the 1950's in response to growing problems with environmental contamination, residues on crops, and an increasing number of cases of chemical resistance in pest populations. IPM programs grew steadily during the 1960's and 1970's, and the IPM concept serves as a model for pest management programs throughout agriculture.

IPM is not organic farming. Unlike organic farming, IPM incorporates synthetic chemical inputs for pest management when needed. However, IPM programs do seek to minimize chemical inputs. There are four very sound reasons for this. **First**, chemicals often have a negative impact on the environment. DDT is the classic example. Although not particularly toxic to humans, DDT proved to be environmentally persistent and highly toxic to many other species. **Second**, chemicals are expensive, and producers often realize a significant reduction in production costs by limiting their use. **Third**, chemical residues compromise the purity of the products produced, possibly rendering them unhealthy or undesirable in the market place. **Fourth**, chemical resistance develops at a slower rate when the pest population is exposed to pesticides or antibiotics less frequently, and that extends the useful life span of existing chemical controls.

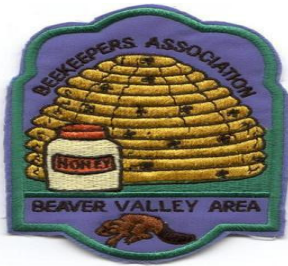
Nicholas Calderone, Assoc. Professor of Etymology, Cornell University.

PART II —WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

To survive, beekeepers must learn to manage pest populations in a manner that is not only effective and affordable in the short run, but also safe and sustainable in the long run.'

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers Association

Dan Worst, Treasurer
124 Grant Street
Coraopolis, PA 15108



WE'RE ON THE WEB AT: WWW.BEAVERVALLEYBEES.COM

All-American Barbeque Basting Sauce

3 tsp. chili powder
3 tsp. black pepper
3 tsp. dry mustard
3 tsp. paprika
9 Tbsp. honey
6 tsp. salt
4 1/2 c. beer
1 1/2 c. vinegar
12 Tbsp. bacon drippings
3 Tbs. Worcestershire sauce
3 Tbs. hot red pepper sauce
4 1/2 Tbsp. lemon juice
4 1/2 Tbs. grated onions
6 cloves garlic or 6 Tsp. garlic powder

Combine ingredients; simmer 20 minutes over low heat. Refrigerate up to 6 months, using as needed. This sauce is delicious with chicken. This recipe will baste 5 slabs of ribs. Yields 7 cups.

French Honey Dressing

1/2 c. vegetable oil
1/2 c. honey 1 1/4 c. ketchup

2 Tbsp. salt

Grated onion to taste

Beat well or combine in blender. Refrigerate and use as needed.

Recipes from, *The Healthy Taste of Honey* by Larry Lonik

FUN FACTS

- Honey is healthier than other types of sugars
- Honey has antibacterial properties
- Bee venom is used to fight arthritis
- Local honey minimizes the unpleasantness of hay-fever and allergies
- Americans consume an average of 285 million pounds of honey a year
- In early England, France and Germany, honey was considered so valuable that it was used in place of gold to pay taxes



Bring a side dish made with honey to the combined BVABA & Burgh Bees Out-yard Picnic—July 9th, 12-3 p.m.!