



BEE NEWS & VIEWS

MDAC
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HARRY R. FULTON, Editor

Beekeeper's Association Newsletter

November/December 2008

Dear Beekeepers,

It is done! The annual meeting of the Mississippi Beekeepers Association was great. The accommodations were great and attendance was great. Approximately 100 were in attendance. Participation in the honey contest was at a record. We had a number of great speakers. Copies of the minutes of the business session are available upon request.

Of concern is the fact that two items came up missing from the silent auction table at the annual meeting: a copy drawing/painting donated by LaDonna Stroud Walters of Laurel and a copy of Dr. Collison's book, What Do You Know. If anyone has them or knows of their whereabouts please notify us.

Two bids have been offered to host the MBA convention next year: Marion County Beekeepers Association in Columbia and the Delta Area Beekeepers Association in Cleveland. The Executive Committee will poll the

membership as to the preference for the meeting in early 2009.

We are glad to report that the Mississippi Farm Bureau (MFB) has officially established a state level honey advisory committee. Beekeeper, Gerald Jetton of Tremont, MS in Itawamba County has been asked by MFB to serve as chairman. Mr. Greg Shows of Canton is our MFB contact person. He has been serving on the Africanized Honey Bee Task Force as MFB's representative. MBA has two pieces of legislation they hope to have introduced this coming session and MFB has offered their support. One is to ask the Legislature for financial support to assist beekeepers who have black bear damage. Another serves to explicitly list beekeeping as a farming practice exempt from nuisance lawsuits (Section 95-3-29, Mississippi Code- Immunity of certain agricultural operations from nuisance actions) - often referred to as "the Right to Farm Act".

When the time approaches, after the legislative bills have been

introduced into the legislative process and numbers assigned to the bills, you will be asked to contact your legislators asking their support. A packet of information will be distributed explaining the black bear situation and provide contact information for your legislators.

Surveys of the beekeeping industry in Mississippi revealed that during the period of 1984 - 1992, losses occurred amounting to \$306,132 (avg. of \$34,000 per year). A survey was not done for the years 1993 through 2000. A new survey was done for 2001 and 2007 which showed losses of \$296,232 (avg. of \$49,000 per year) a 44% increase since the survey 8 years earlier. Bear populations are increasing in Mississippi and the trend is for more damage to apiaries to occur. Apiaries will no doubt be in more jeopardy if in rural areas. Just this spring a queen rearing operation in Mississippi suffered losses of approximately \$30,000 when a bear destroyed a big portion of a mating yard. It is a felony act if someone kills or harms a bear and even disrupts his habitat

and a fine of \$10,000 plus jail time may be imposed if convicted. Therefore, beekeepers must not take it upon themselves to dispose of nuisance bears. The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has refused to trap and relocate bears posing threats to apiaries, but will do so if they pose a threat to human safety. Officials contend that commercial beekeepers can afford to spend thousand of dollars to erect and maintain electric fences to protect their livelihoods.

Those interested may look at the official map of where black bears have been sighted in Mississippi by going to <http://msbear.org/sightings.html>. They may also read other information about the efforts to restore bear populations.

Concerning the “right to farm act”, with Africanized honey bees approaching the state and more interest being shown to restrict beekeeping, especially in local ordinances, beekeepers operating and managing their apiaries in a competent manner, and can prove so, should not be subject to frivolous lawsuits. Often honey bees are blamed for stinging incidents, which in fact result from wasps, hornets and yellow jackets. The law will provide some protection; however, beekeepers can not take it for granted they will be armored against being sued. They must always be prepared to show that they are not operating their apiary in a negligent manner and provide a safety net for the public.

MBA Membership at All Time High

Latest records show MBA membership to surpass the 300 mark. An interest in beekeeping is on the rise. People are saying they do not see bees in their garden. They hear that all the bees are disappearing and want to do something about it- start beekeeping. All the publicity about CCD has really been a boost to the beekeeping industry in this respect.

News Release-“Financial Assistance Available to Assist Beginner Beekeepers”

In an effort to reverse the recent decline of honey bee populations in Mississippi, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, Lester Spell, Jr., announces that financial assistance will be made available to beginning beekeepers who establish up to four colonies of honey bees “The decline in populations of honey bees needed for pollination of crops and home gardens has necessitated a program to assist people interested in becoming first-time beekeepers,” Spell said.

A 50/50 match is required. By showing proof of purchase for 2 hives, a new beekeeper may receive a reimbursement of \$180 for one of the two hives and the bees. Funds are limited and will be disbursed on a first-come, first-served basis to those who qualify with a limit of \$360 per applicant. Other restrictions apply concerning attendance at workshops and recordkeeping.

The program is administered through the Mississippi Beekeepers Association. Application deadline is April 1, 2009. For more information contact Harry Fulton, State Entomologist at (662) 325-3390 or email harry@mdac.state.ms.us. End of News Release.

MBA members are encouraged to recruit new beekeepers and to mentor them, coach them and to give them encouragement. An application form is attached for use in recruiting members. Please read the qualifications carefully. If you are interested in taking on a new beekeeper as a friend and Coach please let me know by telephone or email. Some of them will need assistance in installing their packages and guidance for several months.

Help Needed

In a project of love, help is needed to assist villages in Senegal, Northwest Africa in starting beekeeping projects. The annual per capita income is \$350 and beekeeping could provide some income and help in improving living conditions for villagers.

Preliminary planning is being done to determine the feasibility of the project and will be a five year partnership between two missionaries in Senegal and the First Baptist Church in Picayune, Mississippi.

If interested, please contact Buddy Broadway, 1400 Goodyear Blvd., Picayune, MS 39466; phone (601) 798-3227 or email at

broad@datasync.com. Buddy is one of MBA's newer members.

Locations of Feral Colonies Needed

Feral colonies are undoubtedly on a drastic downward cycle. Many concerned people are reporting no bees in their gardens, clover fields and flowers.

The need exists to keep track of feral colonies to monitor wild population dynamics. Mapping of feral colonies may have some important long term benefits for honey bees in general. If the bees are living (and hopefully thriving) without the assistance of beekeepers, then how are they managing to do it with all the parasites, diseases and environmental stresses? Recent research has shown that it may be the result of developing tolerance to parasites or the parasites, varroa mites in particular, may not be as harmful. More research is needed and queen breeders need access to the genetic potential of these surviving feral colonies to determine if they are genetically similar to bred strains (likely swarms from managed colonies) or if they are indeed distinctly natural survivors.

Ronnie Bouchon, a beekeeper (see *Bee Culture*, 134(9): 45-47) has developed a website to help track feral colonies. Using Google Maps Technology, he has established a confidential online system where people can plot the locations of feral colonies. It is named www.SaveTheHives.com. The display can plot a 3 mile radius

around each feral colony, the approximate foraging area covered by the colony. The site will be used to track individual colonies to see if they are survivors and to give locations where they might be sampled and analyzed for genetic makeup and determine how they may be coping with parasites, and undercover any hidden secrets the bees might hold.

Beekeepers and others are encouraged to use the site and plot wild colonies.



MBA President's Report

Harry had the idea of combining our monthly news letter for the month of November and December, A GREAT IDEA.

Only a few know the challenges that we BEE Keepers have had during this year of 2008 in addition to our regular jobs, whether we are retired or engaged in supporting our family by full time employment and beekeeping as a hobby .

In order to survive we have had to become more educated in Entomology, Biology, Pathology, Ecology, Herbology, Mythology, and deal with Arthritis, Bursitis, and Finance.

Common problems are the usual Varroa/Tracheal Mites, Small

Hive Beetles, Colony Collapse, Wax Moths, Foulbrood, Wild Life Protected Critters and Heart Dropsy. For those of you who do not have a clue what Heart Dropsy is, it is when you sit down, and do not have the HEART TO GET UP!

Having pointed out all of the NEGATIVE aspects of Bee Keeping, you will soon find out that BEE keeping is ADDICTIVE.

We all know that Bees are one of GODS Great Miracles. Once you understand this, the job of beekeeping is your ASSIGNMENT FROM GOD; you just get on with this ASSIGNMENT.

Now, look at the POSITIVE SIDE, The price of Honey is up, it is up to you to keep up with the market, and work to make a PROFIT.

The MBA was successful in getting two bills passed in our Legislature this year, however, one has to have an amendment added to it, and this is already in the hopper for the upcoming 2009 session. Our committees have already prepared two additional bills to be presented in the coming Legislature.

Our committee has now been successful in organizing bee committees in enough counties to qualify to receive HELP from the Farm Bureau in helping get our bills passed in this coming session of Legislators.

GET PREPARED, WHEN I CALL FOR YOUR HELP TO COME TO JACKSON TO SHOW OUR FORCE, AND THAT WE ARE SERIOUS,

ABOUT OUR INDUSTRY,
PUT ON YOUR BEE SHIRT,
AND COME A RUNNING.
WITH EVERY ONE'S HELP
WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL.
CONTACT YOUR
SENATORS AND
REPRESENTATIVES NOW.
TELL THEM THAT WE
MUST HAVE THEIR HELP.
THE BEES, AS WELL AS
OUR BEE INDUSTRY IS IN
TROUBLE, AND WE MUST
HELP FIX THE PROBLEMS.

WE HAVE HAD A GREAT
AND SUCCESSFUL,
CONFERENCE held in
Starkville. My THANKS TO
ALL WHO HELPED TO
MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

It is now mid NOVEMBER;
NO, you can not sit down, Now
is the time to make plans for the
coming year. It is time to
scrape, clean, nail repair, and
construct additional equipment.
WHY? You know that your
hives will swarm come
SPRING, so you might as well
have some extra equipment on
hand. Order new queens now.
Order bees and queens from our
Mississippi Queen Breeders.
They have Queens as good as
and in most cases better than the
ones in other states. Ordering
your Queens from far off does
not mean that they are better. If
you do not know where in
Mississippi to order your
Queens, contact Harry and
order a Mississippi Beekeeper
Association Membership
Directory, this book has all
MBA members listed in their
category Commercial/Hobby, A
Great book to have. All of the
beekeepers in Mississippi
should register to be named in
this directory.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK
ALL OF YOU WHO HELPED
MAKE OUR YEAR 2008
SUCCESSFUL.

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A
GOOD 2009 SEASON.

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MBA Membership Renewals

Dues are due for the upcoming
2009 year. Many of you
renewed at the annual meeting.
Some 200 members have not
renewed. An application is
enclosed. Don't forget to renew
for "Bee News & Views".
Dues were officially increased
by \$5.00. They are now:
Hobby- \$10.00; Commercial-
\$30. Make checks payable to
MBA. **Remember, the money
is well spent to promote
beekeeping.**

Collison's Corner

The Nasonov or scent gland is
found on the dorsal side of the
abdomen on the 7th abdominal
segment and consists of a mass
of large glandular cells which
secrete pheromone through 600
or so minute ducts into a groove
or canal between the 6th and 7th
body segments. The Nasonov
gland and canal is usually
concealed by the overlapping
part of the 6th body segment.
During gland exposure the bee
usually stands with its abdomen
elevated and the tip of the
abdomen depressed. Worker

honey bees fan their wings,
drawing air over the exposed
gland and canal to disperse the
scent when they release the
pheromone. The gland is absent
in queens and drones.

Production of Nasonov
pheromone varies with the bee's
age and with the time of the
year. Newly emerged workers
have little or no secretion in
their glands; maximum levels
are reached in foraging-age
bees. In winter, the level of
secretion is also low, until
foraging is again resumed in the
spring.

The major compounds produced
by this gland function as
powerful attractants. Geraniol
is the major compound present
(Boch and Shearer 1962). Also
present is nerol and (E,E)-
farnesol, (E)-citral, (Z)-citral,
geranic acid and nerolic acid
(Boch and Shearer 1964, Free
1987). Because of differences
in volatility of the chemical
components, their relative
proportions will change with
distance from the gland. No
information exists on the
distance from which a bee can
perceive Nasonov pheromone
and align its movement
accordingly.

The scent-gland pheromone is
used to attract workers to food
and to help lost and/or
disoriented bees locate home or
food. It is released most
frequently at water sources,
around a hive entrance
(especially in disorderly or
confusing conditions), during
swarm movement and at the
swarm settling site. Nest sites
are also marked with the
pheromone. It may be released

at flowers but apparently this is not frequently done.

Extensive release of Nasonov pheromone occurs during different stages of the movement of a swarm from its parent colony to its new nest site (Morse and Boch 1971). After leaving its parent colony the swarm clusters nearby on a tree branch or other support. The first bees to settle expose their Nasonov glands and this attracts other bees still airborne to the site. Once the swarm has clustered, scout bees continue to search for a permanent nest site. Sometimes they may locate potential nest sites before the swarm leaves its parent colony. Scout bees which have discovered a nest site return to the cluster and perform direction- and distance-indicating communicative dances. They then go back to the new nest site, release Nasonov pheromone near its entrance, and so attract more scouts to investigate the site. When most of the scout bees agree that a particular nest site is suitable the swarm leaves its temporary clustering site and flies to the new nest. Scout bees lead the swarm and release Nasonov pheromone en route. Some scouts are already at the nest site releasing Nasonov pheromone while the swarm is airborne, Nasonov pheromone is released by most bees in the swarm as they land at the nest entrance and while walking into the nest.

Even after a colony is well established in its nest or hive, Nasonov pheromone may act as an orientation aid. It is often released by young bees after their first orientation flights, but

any disturbance that causes flying bees to become disorientated often causes them to expose their Nasonov glands and fan when eventually they alight near the nest or hive entrance. Workers which perceive this pheromone expose their own Nasonov glands and thus augment the signal. Free et al. (1983) found that four of the chemical components of the pheromone (geraniol, (E)-citral, nerolic acid, and geranic acid) induce workers to release Nasonov pheromone at their hive entrance.

When a virgin queen is about to leave her hive to mate, many of her workers assemble at the hive entrance and release Nasonov pheromone; this probably serves the purpose of guiding the virgin queen to the entrance and helping her find the hive on her return. It is well known that if a colony is examined about 24 hours after its queen has been removed, many of the worker bees release Nasonov pheromone and fan.

The presence of Nasonov pheromone at a source of forage does not encourage attracted bees to release further pheromone; this helps to avoid over-exploitation (Free 1968). However, the presence of Nasonov pheromone at the hive entrance stimulates returning foragers to release the pheromone (Ferguson and Free, 1981).

References:

Boch, R. and D.A. Shearer 1962. Identification of geraniol as the active component in the Nasonov pheromone of the honeybee. *Nature* 194: 704-706.

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Ferguson, A.W. and J.B. Free 1981. Factors determining the release of Nasonov pheromone by honeybees at the hive entrance. *Physiol. Entomol.* 6: 15-19.

Free, J.B. 1968. The conditions under which foraging honeybees expose their Nasonov glands. *J. Apic. Res.* 7: 139-145.

Free, J.B. 1987. *Pheromones of Social Bees.* Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, NY, 218 pp.

Free, J.B., A.W. Ferguson and J.A. Pickett 1983. Effect of the components of the Nasonov pheromone on its release by honeybees at the hive entrance. *J. Apic. Res.* 22: 155-157.

Morse, R.A. and R. Boch 1971. Pheromone concert in swarming honey bees (Hymenoptera: Apidae). *Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am.* 64:1414-1417.

November 2008

Barcode Information from Harold Brummet a beekeeper from Oxford

According to <http://www.snopes.com/> to www.snopes.com, this information can be helpful, but does not always indicate the country of origin of the product, but will indicate the

country in which the barcode was assigned. For example: If a product made in Peru was shipped for packaging/distribution to Mexico, the barcode would show Mexico as the country of origin, not Peru. Again though, it can still be helpful.

Check the barcodes on foods, whether it is for people or pets. Foodstuffs from China have been killing pets and people. Here's the information to pass on.

The whole world is concerned about China made 'black hearted goods'. Can you differentiate which one is made in Canada, Philippines, Taiwan or China?

The first 3 digits of the barcode is the country code wherein the product was made. </ SPAN>

Sample: All barcodes that start at 690 - 695 are all MADE IN CHINA. 471 is Made in Taiwan.

Government and related departments won't educate the public. Therefore, we have to educate ourselves.

Nowadays, Chinese businessmen know that consumers do not prefer products 'Made in China ', so they don't show from which country it is made.

However, you may now refer to the barcode, remember if the first 3 digits are: 690-695 then it is Made in

China.

BARCODES

00 ~ 13 USA & CANADA
30 ~ 37 FRANCE
40 ~ 44 GERMANY
49 ~ JAPAN
50 ~ UK
57 ~ Denmark
64 ~ Finland
76 ~ Switzerland and Liechtenstein
471 ~ Taiwan
480 ~ Philippines
628 ~ Saudi-Arabia
629 ~ United Arab Emirates
690 ~ 695 China
740 ~ 745 Central America

BUY AMERICAN !!!!!
WHEN POSSIBLE. THANK YOU.

A Lesson for us as we grow older or maybe just get wiser- "How to call the Police when You're Old or Don't Move Fast:

George, an older beekeeper (no last name mentioned) was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the honey house, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn it off, but saw people in the building stealing things.

He phones the police, who asked "Is someone in your house? Is someone in danger?" and he said "no". Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available. George said, "Okay", hung up, counted

to 60, and phoned the police again.

"Hello", I just called a few minutes ago because there were people stealing things from my honey house. "Well, I told you wrong- there was someone in danger. You don't have to worry about them now. I just shot them". George hung up.

Within five minutes three police cars, an armed swat team and an ambulance raced onto the scene. They caught the burglars red-handed. One of the policemen asked George, "I thought you said that you shot them". George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

Moral of the story- "Don't mess with old wise people". And as Americans be thankful for all our blessings (including God-Given Wisdom) as the holiday season progresses and we refresh our minds and souls.

Until next month have great holiday season, Thanksgiving and Christmas!!!

Harry R. Fulton,
Secretary/Treasurer

Classified – For Sale

Kelley 33 Frame Extractor with metal stand and motor - \$1500.

Removable SS baskets for use as a batch wax spinner - \$200.

Contact: Steve Culp, Jonesboro, AR, cell 870-931-8647, home 870-931-1530, e-mail honeyfarm@m34u.net.