



SCOUT BEE NEWSLETTER

A publication from the Hagerstown Valley Apian Society

www.scoutbee.org

February 2007

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Come One!
Come All!

Come join the **Hagerstown Valley Apian Society!** For the small membership fee of **\$10.00** per year, members have the benefit of networking with other beekeepers of the Tri-state area. **Monthly meetings** at a convenient central location offer the opportunity to share ideas in an open forum atmosphere. Informational speakers present on many topics of interest. The **monthly newsletters** provide information on upcoming events and meetings, articles on a variety of topics, recipes, and opportunities to buy, sell or trade equipment and supplies. The greatest benefit of all is the comradery and partnership available and possible between members. **Join today!**

The meeting will be held on Tuesday **February 13, 2007, 7:30 PM** at the **Washington County Extension office, 7303 Sharpsburg Pike**. All are cordially invited to attend this special event.

Dr. Dewey Caron, the well known and respected author, speaker and scholar of honeybees, will be speaking on **Honeybee nutrition**. This is an important but often overlooked subject that can dramatically affect colony performance and honeybee longevity. Dr. Caron is the author of many beekeeping reference books including: *Honeybee Biology and beekeeping*, *Observation Hives* and *Africanized Honeybees in the Americas*

2007 Short Course

2007 Short Course will be held this year at the Boonsboro Fire Hall. It will be held on Monday evenings and the first session will be on February 12. Session times will be 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM. The tuition is \$40 and it includes the textbook *Honey Bees and Beekeeping* by Dr. Keith Delaplane and an annual membership to either HVAS or EPBA (Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers Association)

Winter MSBA Meeting

The Winter MSBA meeting will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2007 at the Howard county Fairgrounds. The speakers for this meeting will be Dr. James Tew, Dr. Dewey Caron, and Dr. Larry Conner

MD 2007 Registrations are Due

If you have not sent in your registration forms to the Dept of agriculture, please do so. These records are necessary in order to keep track of the beekeepers in Maryland. If an outbreak of AFB occurs, it will be much easier to track down the source if everyone is registered. It is for your protection and it's free. They have even provided a self addressed stamped envelope.

Dear Sir or Madam Beekeeper,

My name is Dave Miner. You might be familiar with my father, Ernie Miner, who ran a beekeeping supply business in Walkersville, MD. Ernie was diagnosed a few years ago with Alzheimer's disease and has recently moved to an assisted living facility. (Side note: He is still quite coherent and can still intelligently talk bees with all comers. He still attends various bee meetings now and then.)

I am now in the process of liquidating his inventory to close out his business. We have selected Feb 24th as the date for having the main bulk sale. Ernie's Apiaries is going out of business. Liquidation of inventory is ongoing, with final sale to be held on **Feb 24th beginning at 10am**. Equipment to be sold includes virtually all kinds of woodenware and other beekeeping gear.

Cash and carry only. Address of sale is at **9933 Kelly Road, Walkersville, MD.**

For inquiries call:

301-606-4745

or send email to

BeesKneesHV@xemaps.com

It is important to note that DURING THE INTERIM I am also selling a few of the bigger items in order to make more room to roll out the rest of it. We only have a few extractors and storage tanks and the like, so I am guessing that most or all of these kinds of items might well be gone prior to the main bulk sale. (I just wanted to make the circumstances clear in order to help folks avoid coming all the way out on the 24th, only to find out then that all the extractors are gone!) To put it another way, if you are only looking for a large and/or specialty item please give me a call or send me a message before you risk wasting a trip.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Dave Miner

Ernie Miner---A Local Beekeeping Treasure

"I first met Ernest Miner— known to his friends as Ernie— sometime around 1977 or 78 when I suddenly became a beekeeper and realized I knew absolutely nothing about beekeeping. I discovered he had the knowledge and the ability to guide me in my new hobby. Soon after our first meeting we enrolled in Dr. Dewey Caron's beekeeping classes in the Entomology Department of Maryland University. During our carpooling to classes we invented the recipes and wrote our cookbook. All that was the beginning of a long partnership in participating in an assortment of projects plus beekeeper meetings in Maryland, in the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS), and craft fairs.

At the summer conference of EAS in 1981 we both decided to attempt the Master Beekeeper

exams conducted by Dr. Roger Morse. We were both in the select group of 11 who passed the exam. Both of us attributed our success to the courses of Dr. Caron that we took.

I consider Ernie the funniest person I have ever met. His humor, I am sure, was lost on many because it was quiet and subtle. He had endless patience with beginning beekeepers, instructing them in the wonders of beekeeping. He took great delight in new advances in beekeeping equipment and was happy to report on both successes and problems to his customers.

Many may not realize that Ernie worked for many years at the National Institutes of Health where he took the scientific articles from the researchers there and rewrote that information for the popular press, such as *TIME* magazine and newspapers. He retired from NIH to devote his time to beekeeping, pollination of crops, educating beekeepers and selling equipment. *Ann Harman*

Dr Dewey M. Caron - Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, Univ of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716
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I am a Bennington Co, VT native and attended University of Vermont for my undergraduate degree (Zoology). I earned an MS in Ecology at U of Tennessee and PhD in Entomology at Cornell University, where I had the good fortune to study honey bees under Dr Roger Morse. I was an instructor/administrative assistant in the Entomology Department at Cornell before moving to the University of Maryland (1970-1981). I advanced from Assistant Professor to Professor during the 11 years in Maryland where I was Extension Apiculturist and taught a popular beekeeping course to undergraduates (and to 100's of beekeepers via short courses) plus the beginning Entomology course. My research was on swarming management, bee pests/diseases and pollination of cucurbits and apples/pears. Jim Tew of Ohio State was one of my PhD students and another was Elton Herbert who was a leading bee Nutrition researcher at USDA before an untimely early death. Dave Knox of USDA, Beltsville and Barton Smith, who was MD Chief Apiary Inspector for many years

before his current service at the USDA lab in Beltsville, were among several MS students.

I moved to the University of Delaware as Department Chair in 1981 after serving as Acting Department Chairman in Maryland following a year at USDA Tucson Lab. After 5 years I left administration, remaining at Delaware as Professor and Extension Entomologist with a three-way split of Extension (Apiculture + Ornamental Insects), Teaching (introductory courses in Entomology, and Wildlife Conservation + 2 courses in beekeeping) and research (pollination, bee mites, bee pests and social insect queen replacement /swarming). In some 40 years with bees I have published 5 books, numerous book chapters, over 70 scientific publications and over 300 popular articles on bees and insects. I contribute to many local/regional/national bee newsletters on a regular basis and edit the DE NEWSY BEE and regional BEEAWARE newsletters.

I began International Development activities in 1982 when I went to Panama to help the University in Panama establish a MS program in Medical Entomology and have returned numerous times to Panama, Central America, and most recently Bolivia, with grant funding for Sustainable Development. I use

(Dr. Dewey Caron continued)

honey bees and Entomology/Wildlife as models for helping individuals/communities improve their standard of living, their environment and family nutrition.

I have been active 40 years in EAS. My first meeting was 1967 at U of MD. I have given program talks many years, served as board chair for 8 years (1991-99), as President (in 1986), and currently as EAS Foundation Chair (1999-pr). I assisted Dr Morse in the NY Master Beekeeper certification (1978) and carried it to

EAS serving as 1st Director. I revived the EAS Short Course effort (in 1979 at U of Vermont) and have organized/participated in virtually all SC programs since. I have received many awards from EAS, teaching/mentoring excellence recognition from Universities of Maryland/Delaware and Entomological Society of America and National/regional bee organizations. I am most proud of the EAS Roger A. Morse Award for Teaching/Extension/Regulatory excellence with honey bees.

Colony Collapse Disorder

During the months of October, November, and December 2006, an alarming number of honey bee colonies began to die along the East Coast of the United States. West Coast beekeepers have reported unprecedented losses. Subsequent investigations suggest these outbreaks of unexplained colony collapse were experienced by beekeepers for at least the last two years. Reports of similar die offs are documented in beekeeping literature, with outbreaks possibly occurring as long ago as 1896. This phenomenon, without a recognizable underlying cause, was tentatively termed "Fall Dwindle Disease" and latter named "Colony Collapse Disorder", and threatens the pollination industry and production of commercial honey in the United States.

This has become a highly significant yet poorly understood problem for beekeepers. We are no longer calling this Fall Dwindle Disease -- its not a fall phenomenon when looked at across the nation, its a rapid collapse (often in less than 2-3 weeks), and it may or may not be a disease in the strictest sense. There is a preliminary report on the internet at the Penn State web site: <http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/pressReleases/FallDwindleUpdate0107.pdf>. While the investigations continue, the epidemic nature of this disease demands that we share information as it becomes available. It is hoped that, despite its incomplete nature, this report will help to formulate plans of action on how to best tackle this new challenge to the industry.

For months, a devastating honeybee die-off has frustrated beekeepers, threatened growers and stumped bee specialists. Now, the affliction that has wiped out three-quarters of some Pennsylvania beekeepers' colonies has an official name -- Colony Collapse Disorder. Still, researchers say, they are only slightly closer to understanding what is causing the large-scale deaths of bees noticed here in October and since identified in 11 other states. Researchers are trying to find a common thread running through the

abrupt loss of so many bee colonies in so many places. "We called it Colony Collapse Disorder because calling it a disease may be misleading until we know the cause," said Dennis van Engelsdorp, a bee specialist with the Pennsylvania state Department of Agriculture. "We are pretty sure, but not certain, that it is a contagious disease. It does look like there is a pathogen involved, but we have not been able to identify it,"

Initial studies of dying colonies revealed a large number of disease organisms present, with no one disease being identified as the culprit, van Engelsdorp explained. Ongoing case studies and surveys of beekeepers experiencing CCD have found a few common management factors, but no common environmental agents or chemicals have been identified.

The beekeeping industry has been quick to respond to the crisis. The National Honey Board has pledged \$13,000 of emergency funding to the CCD working group. Other organizations, such as the Florida State Beekeepers Association, are working with their membership to commit additional funds.

This latest loss of colonies could seriously affect the production of several important crops that rely on pollination services provided by commercial beekeepers. Honey bees pollinate approximately 130 fruit, vegetable, nut, ornamental and fiber crops in the US and contribute about \$15 billion annually to the national economy through improved crop yields and product quality

Colony Collapse Disorder most immediately threatens pollination of California's \$1.5 billion almond crop, which typically starts the first week in February.

There is no substitute or simulated version of pollination, "Almonds are completely dependent on honeybees; apples and blueberries less so," said Tom Rinderer, a researcher at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's breeding and genetics lab in Baton Rouge, La.. "There is no substitute, and wild bees can be unreli-

able." More than \$15 billion worth of U.S. agricultural products each year rely on honeybee pollination.

CCD Symptoms

Based on initial visits to affected beeyards, the CCD team drew up a list of the following symptoms, typical of the disorder:

1--In collapsed colonies,

a. The complete absence of adult bees in colonies, with no or little build up of dead bees in the colonies or in front of those colonies

b. The presence of capped brood in colonies,

c. The presence of food stores, both honey and bee bread which is not robbed by other bees, and

ii. when attacked by hive pests such as wax moth and small hive beetle, the attack is noticeably delayed (days, weeks)

2-- In cases where the colony appear to be actively collapsing

a. An insufficient workforce to maintain the brood that is present

b. The workforce seems to be made up of young adult bees

c. The queen is present

d. The cluster is reluctant to consume provided feed, such as sugar syrup and protein supplement

Initial results from the online survey: [_www.beesurvey.com_](http://www.beesurvey.com)

(<http://www.beesurvey.com>) has revealed that beekeepers think that this started at least 1-2 years ago, in its present form. As this list has mentioned, similar syndromes have been reported in the U.S. , dating back to 1896. It certainly looks identical to the disorder reported by Oertel in 1965 (from bee losses in 63-64).

Finally, if you've experienced this, please fill out the survey -

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Initial results from the online survey (www.beesurvey.com) has revealed that beekeepers think that this started at least 1-2

years ago, in its present form. If you have had any unexplained losses please fill out the survey at beesurvey.com

Questions to ponder include:

Why did adult bees want to leave?

Why did they want to leave even the capped brood?

Dead inside? Problems to much?

What is wrong with presence of food stores both honey and be bread the other bees don't want to rob?

Why are other pests waiting to attack the collapsed colony?

Something to dissipate? Not good for them?

Why no work force and again where and why did the bees go?

Why could not the queen leave with other bees if this is what happened? Or did something else happen?

What is wrong with the syrup and artificial pollen (protein supplement) being fed? Why don't the bees want it?

How will CCD affect the pollination industry (some large migratory beekeepers report more than 95% loss)?

Glazed Baked Chicken

2 fryer chickens (2 ½ lb.) cut for frying
¾ cup fresh orange juice
2 tablespoons lemon juice
¼ cup salad oil
¼ cup honey
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon dry mustard
½ teaspoon paprika

Blend orange juice, lemon juice, oil, honey, salt, pepper, dry mustard and paprika. Pour over chicken pieces coating completely. Marinate for several hours in sauce. Remove chicken in foil lined pan. Baste with glaze. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour basting with remaining sauce. Cover if chicken browns too fast.

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