Local Update

South Carolina Beekeepers Spring Meeting - The South Carolina Beekeepers will hold their spring meeting Saturday, March 2, at the Farm Bureau Building, 724 Knox Abbott Drive, Cayce, (West Columbia) SC. The meeting site can be reached easily from I-26 by taking the Airport Exit; go north toward Columbia which will run into Knox Abbott Drive. The building is on the left approximately 3 miles from I-26. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM and the meeting program will get under way at 8:30. Registration cost is $2 per person or $3 per family.

South Carolina House of Representative Bill Riser from West Columbia will be our first speaker and will give a “Legislative Update.” Fred Singleton, our state apiary inspector, will discuss the “out-of-state migratory fee” which was initiated in 2001 by Department of Plant Industry. Mike Hood will then discuss three challenging issues which continue to face South Carolina Beekeepers. Other interesting and informative beekeeping topics will be covered during the program. You may refer to the program which is included in this newsletter for a listing of topics and speakers. All beekeepers or anyone interested in honey bees and beekeeping are invited to attend for a good time of education and fellowship. For further meeting information, call Mike Hood, Extension Apiculturist, Department of Entomology, Clemson University (ph. 864-656-0346 or email mhood@clemson.edu).

Other News - Three local beekeeper associations will offer Master Beekeeper Program certified level courses this winter. These courses are being hosted by the Lancaster Beekeepers, Piedmont Beekeepers and the York County Beekeepers. The certified courses run for 5-6 weeks and are concluded with a written test. Other 1-2 days introductory beekeeping short courses are being offered by the Lowcountry Beekeepers beginning on 16 March and by the Midstate Beekeepers on 9 March.

Small Hive Beetle - South Carolina has requested the renewal for Check Mite +® Beehive Pest Control Strip (AI. 10% Coumaphos) for small hive beetle and varroa mite control. Currently, there is no EPA registration number for this product. All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the proposed product label submitted by the state must be followed. The renewal request should be granted soon and will last for the 2002 treatment year. This will be the third year that South Carolina has sought and received the use of coumaphos impregnated in plastic strips to be hung in beehives to control varroa mites or placed on the bottom board to control small hive beetles under a section 18 of FIFRA. The decision of whether future requests for this use are approved will depend, in part, on progress made towards registration. We thank Tim Drake and other members of the Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation and Public Services for their role they played in processing our registration package request for this Section 18 label.

Treatment of small hive beetle infested colonies with Check Mite +® should be limited to periods when daytime temperatures are 65° F or higher. At lower temperatures, beetles may not be active enough to come in contact with the strips. No treatment thresholds have been developed to recommend to beekeepers as to what beetle levels warrant treatment. A general guideline is - treatment is not recommended when few adult beetles are present in a colony. When many adult beetles are present and/or when beetle larvae are present, treatment is recommended. Ground treatment below colonies with Gard Star® or similar “site treatment materials” is recommended to disrupt the beetle life cycle. Ground treatment is not recommended as a preventive measure for small hive beetle control.

Beekeepers should practice good bee management practices to reduce colony stress which could lead to major small hive beetle problems. Stresses which may lead to beetle problems are the presence of European
foulbrood, mite problems, queen failure, insufficient food, excessive swarming, and over-supering. Any factor that reduces the ratio of the colony bee population to its comb surface that the bees are no longer able to protect this comb surface adequately may lead to serious beetle problems.

Beekeepers should practice good sanitation in and around the honey house. Wax cappings should be melted and processed timely and slum gum removed from the area. Suppliers should be extracted within a day or so and not stored in the honey house for long periods.

Small hive beetle discoveries have now been confirmed in 27 of the 46 South Carolina counties including: Aiken, Anderson, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lexington, Marion, Orangeburg, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter, and Union. Reports indicate that small hive beetles continue to be a major problem in our coastal counties.

Research Project Assistance Requested by Mike Hood.
Beekeepers throughout South Carolina are asked to assist in the collection of small hive beetle adult specimens for a research project. Ten adult beetles should be collected from a single honey bee colony and placed in alcohol in a small leakproof container. Ideally, I'd like to get samples from at least 3 colonies in each apiary, but I'll be happy to get at least one. Please keep beetles from different colonies separate. A minimum of one beetle sample is needed from each infested county. Samples can be turned into Mike Hood at the SCBA spring meeting on 2 March. Please attach a label to the container which list the date of collection, the county where the sample was collected, and your name and mailing address. This is a cooperative project with USDA scientists from the Beltsville Bee Lab. The project is an attempt to track small hive beetle spread in South Carolina and to conduct a molecular analysis of the beetles present in the state. If you collect beetles from a county not listed in the above paragraph, this will serve also as confirmation of a newly infested county. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Africanized Honey Bees
Found in Greenville, South Carolina

(Clemson University News Release)
GREENVILLE — Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture today (Dec. 4) confirmed that an Africanized honey bee (AHB) colony was discovered in the wing of an airplane in Greenville.

The airplane was flown from Arizona, where AHBs are common, to the Donaldson Center in Greenville for maintenance in late September. The aircraft had been inactive for several months in Arizona, and a swarm of AHBs had entered the wing and established a nest.

Some of the colony died in transit, but there were dead adult bees, bee brood and some honey remaining when the wing was opened for investigation, according to Mike Hood, Clemson Extension bee specialist. Exterminators were called in to kill the bees on Nov. 28, and Hood was called in to examine the bees the next day. Samples of dead bees were shipped to the USDA/ARS Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Md. for identification.

"We received a positive confirmation this afternoon," Hood said. "Due to the stressful condition of the colony when it arrived in Greenville, there is little risk of a swarm of bees emerging from the parent colony and becoming established." Hood said. "Also, nectar is not available in the Greenville area that would support a new colony and bees would simply starve this time of year."

As a precautionary measure, plans are being made to initiate a bee-trapping program in the vicinity of the Donaldson Center to capture any additional AHB swarms.

Bee experts who hoped to increase honey production through a crossbreeding program with the domesticated European honey bee, brought an African strain of honey bees to Brazil in 1956. In 1957, 26 swarms headed by African queens were released accidentally, and have been moving northward since. They have been found in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California and Nevada. Africanized honey bees defend their nests more vigorously than European bees and swarm more often.

Many people want to know if these bees are as dangerous as portrayed in the movies and in the media. The answer is no, according to Hood. "These bees do not swoop down from the sky causing death and destruction," he said. "The chances of being injured by an Africanized honey bee are far less than the chances of being hit by lightning."

Writer: Diane Palmer
Propolis Price Increases: A Value-added Product Whose Time Has Come?

by Tom Sanford

There have been a couple of reports that propolis prices are on the increase. The autumn 2000 edition of BEE BIZ (Number 12, pp. 28-29) reports that the material has soared to 150 New Zealand Dollars per kilogram (2.2 pounds). Comvita of New Zealand reportedly is in desperate need of the material and all amounts produced by New Zealand beekeepers will be purchased at premium prices. According to Mr. Graeme Boyd, chief executive of the company, an annual scraping of propolis from a hive could significantly offset the costs of mite control.

Heather Clay in The February 2001 issue of HiveLights (Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 14-16) published by the Canadian Honey Council <http://www.honeycouncil.ca/> writes that propolis prices have increased two to three fold from six Canadian Dollars a pound in 1999 to a range from 12 to as high as 20 in the year 2000. It turns out that removing the substance is more problematic than collecting it, according to Ms. Clay. Scraping frames and boxes yields little of the product, but a special hive insert encourages bees to collect the sticky stuff.

Ms Clay describes what John Gates, British Columbia apiculture specialist demonstrated at the October BC Honey Producers Association meeting an innovative propolis collection method developed in New Zealand. The collection material is windbreak/shade cloth, which comes in rolls 50 meters (164 feet) by 1 meter (3.28 feet). This will make 180 to 200 mats; mats are laid over the top bars and when strips of propolis have been deposited, the mat can be moved over one top bar width to expose other holes. The propolis is easy to remove by freezing, folding and rubbing the mat. The mats are reusable and become more attractive with use. For top feeding, a hole can be made in the mat for bees to access the feed. These will work on both nucs and full strength colonies.

Propolis comes from the Greek pro = before, and polis = city, referring to its use in partially closing the entrance of a colony – the honey bee city. Ms. Clay lists some information about this biologically active material, including:

a. A resinous gum gathered by bees from plant buds and bark.
b. Contains approximately 55 percent resins and balms, 30 percent wax, 10 percent etheric oils and 5 percent pollen.
c. Soft when warm (25-45 degrees C [77-113 degrees F]); brittle when cold (15 degrees C [59 degrees F]) melts at 65 degrees C [149 degrees F].
d. Dissolves in alcohol to make a tincture.
e. Is the glue bees use to seal cracks and anchor hive parts.
h. Protects Vitamin C from being oxidized or destroyed.

The rise of propolis collection in Brazil in the 1990s may be responsible for much of the current interest in this material <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~mts/apishtml/apis97/apnov97.htm#3>. A search on any World Wide Web Search engine <http://www.google.com> will yield a large number of commercial sites selling products based on its medicinal properties. A complete treatment of propolis collection, preparation and use is found in Value-Added Products From Beekeeping by Dr. Rainer Krell (FAO Agricultural Services Bulletin Bo. 124: Rome 1996 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/w0076e/w0076e14.htm#5.1> Additional information on the material is found in the Apitherapy Reference Data Base <http://www.sci.fi/~apither/bibbase/bibliography.html#Propolis>.

Propolis is complex stuff to begin with, and because it is collected by honey bees and not produced by them, it is extremely variable across geographic regions. A paper on “Standardization of Propolis: Present Status and Perspectives” was recently published in Bee World (Vol. 81, 2000, No. 4, pp. 182-188). According to the authors from Bulgaria, V. Bankova and M. Marucci, “A modern standardization of propolis should be based on plant sources.” Characteristics might include: percentage of beeswax, insoluble residue, and contaminants. Volatility is useful, too, as it can determine product freshness. Biological and biochemical tests can also determine potential activity of every batch. The approach they propose includes “systematic investigations of the chemistry and biological action of propolis in a great many regions of the world and is only possible with the joint efforts of many scientists, beekeepers, the public, national and international organizations, and governments.”

To my knowledge the only country with published regulations is Brazil. A recent post to Apitherapy-L from the Eng. Paulo R. Reis de Oliveira<uniflora@olimpianet.com.br> elaborated on these particular standards. They are quite involved and how they are to be enforced is not clear from the post. Nevertheless, the interest and activity in this value-added product continue to increase and potential producers and users are well advised to keep up with events in this arena.

March 2001, APIS
Instructions For Sending Honey Bee Disease Samples To Beltsville Lab

Dave Knox at the USDA Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland is in charge of diagnostic services for bee diseases. Attached are instructions for sending in samples. Of particular note is the information at the end.

HOW TO SUBMIT SAMPLES FOR DIAGNOSIS

Samples of Adult Honey Bees
Send at least 100 bees and if possible, select bees that are dying or that died recently. Decayed bees are not satisfactory for examination.
- Bees should be placed in 70% ethyl or methyl alcohol as soon as possible after collection and carefully packaged in leak-proof containers.
- Alternatively, bees can be placed in a paper bag or loosely wrapped in a paper towel, newspaper, etc. and sent in a mailing tube or heavy cardboard box. AVOID using plastic bags, aluminum foil, waxed paper, tin, glass, etc. because they promote decomposition.

Samples of Brood
- The sample of comb should be at least 2 X 2 inches and contain as much of the dead or discolored brood as possible. NO HONEY SHOULD BE PRESENT IN THE SAMPLE.
- The comb can be in a paper bag or loosely wrapped in a paper towel, newspaper, etc. and sent in a heavy cardboard box. AVOID using plastic bags, aluminum foil, waxed paper, tin, glass, etc. because they promote decomposition.
- If a comb cannot be sent, the probe used to examine a diseased larva in the cell may contain enough material for tests. The probe can be wrapped in paper and sent to the laboratory in an envelope.

How to Address Samples
- Send all samples to:

  Bee Disease Diagnosis
  Bee Research Laboratory
  Bldg. 476, BARC-East
  Beltsville, MD 20705
  (305) 504-8173

- Include a short description of the problem along with your name and address.
- There is no charge for this service.
- Email: KnoxD@ba.ars.usda.gov

Please Note: All incoming Mail is now being opened by a private contractor and examined before being forwarded to the lab. Also, there is a possibility that some of this mail will be irradiated. Therefore, time sensitive samples or samples requiring culturing (American Foul Brood Resistance Test) should be sent by UPS or FedEx.

Source: ABJ Jan. 2002

Webbs Win Honey Locator Prize

Carl and Virginia Webb of MtnHoney in Clarkesville Ga. have been selected as the grand prizewinners in the National Honey Board’s “Show Me the Honey” contest. The Webb’s entry featured Sourwood, Basswood and Tulip Poplar honey varietals.

“Outstanding photography and descriptions of the plants that bees love have been critical to the Honey Locator’s incredible success on the World Wide Web” said Julia Pirmack, director of industry services for the National Honey Board. “Contributions like those from the Webbs have truly made the site not only informative but beautiful.”

The Honey Locator is an online search engine for honey and honey suppliers. It features information about honey and about the plants that the bees buzz to make the sweet stuff.

Participants were asked to answer the question “What unique varieties of honeys are produced in your area”? Entries must have included the name and a description of the floral source as well as the honey, along with a good quality photograph of the blooming plant.

For their entry, the Webbs will receive a grand prize worth more than $100, including a free annual listing on the National Honey Board’s online search engine – the Honey Locator (www.honeylocator.com).
New Poster And Guide Highlight Many Varieties Of Honey

A vibrant poster and informative guide developed by the National Honey Board highlight the many colors and flavors of honey.

The full-color poster and guide include photographs of 12 uniquely colored honeys along with illustrations of these honeys' floral sources. The materials also include descriptions of the 12 varieties of honey based on sensory testing done at Rtech Laboratories, St Paul, Minn.

"Honey as well as the blossoms it originates from are so beautiful," said Jami Yanoski, marketing manager for the National Honey Board. "In creating the poster and guide we wanted to capture this mouthwatering beauty as well as provide information so that gourmet, chefs and others could appreciate the unique tastes and colors of honey."

Varietals featured on the poster and in the guide are alfalfa, avocado, basswood, blueberry, buckwheat, clover, eucalyptus, fireweed, orange blossom, sage, sourwood and tupelo. The poster and guide will be distributed to culinary schools, chefs and other food professionals.

These beautiful and informative materials are also available to the honey industry. The poster is available for $5; the guide is available for $1. To order, send your request with payment to the National Honey Board, 390 Lashley Street, Longmont, CO 80501 or watch your mail for an order form. For special bulk pricing, call the National Honey Board office at (800) 553-7162.

Every honey house will want a copy of this poster on display!

Animal Shipments Change

The U.S. Postal Service has adjusted the service it provides for the transportation of live animals in response to new FAA restrictions resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Service for live animals for which postage exceeds $3.50 and those that require air transportation can be accepted only through postal facilities at airports. Transportation will be on commercial cargo air carriers. Animals in these categories include day-old poultry, adult poultry and queen honey bees.

This service will be available to and from airports in Atlanta; Baltimore; Boston; Charlotte, NC; Dallas; Denver; El Paso; Houston; Huntsville, AL; Kansas City, MO; Los Angeles; Miami; Minneapolis; Nashville; Orlando; Philadelphia; Phoenix; Portland, OR; and Seattle.

The USPS continues to accept live animals that do not require delivery within 72 hours and that can move via ground transportation. It still accepts live animals for which postage is $3.50 or less for shipments using commercial passenger airlines.

Meanwhile, a House-Senate conference is examining a bill that would require any USPS carrier to accept and transmit shipments of day-old poultry and other live animals as mail matter. The amendment was submitted by Senator Byron Dorgan, D-ND, and originally sponsored by Senators Chuck Grassley, R-IA and Russell Feingold, D-WI all of whom represent farming states.

Bee Culture - Dec. 2001

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2002 Calendar

March 2, 2002
South Carolina Beekeepers Spring Meeting, Columbia, S.C.

July 11-13, 2002
South Carolina Beekeepers Summer Meeting, Clemson, S.C.

July 18-20, 2002
North Carolina State Beekeepers Summer Meeting, Thomasville, N.C.

August 4-10, 2002
Eastern Apiculture Society, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, New York
2002 SOUTH CAROLINA BEEKEEPERS SPRING MEETING  
S.C. FARM BUREAU BUILDING, CAYCE, SC  
MARCH 2, 2002

8:00 AM....Registration & Coffee  
Meeting Registration Fee - $2/person or $3/family

8:30 ..........Invocation - Charles Ford, Secretary York County Beekeepers  
Welcome & President's Comments - SCBA President Kurt Herbst, Charleston Co.  
Introductions & Announcements - Mike Hood, Exec. Sec. SCBA

8:55..........SC Legislative Update - Representative Bill Riser, District 69, Lexington County

9:10.........Regulatory News - Fred Singleton, Apiary Inspector, Clemson University Department of Plant Industry, Summerville

9:20.........Some Information You Need to Know About the Small Hive Beetle, Varroa Mites and American Foulbrood - Mike Hood, Dept. of Entomology, Clemson University

9:50.........Break

10:15.......Door Prizes

10:20........Business Meeting - Kurt Herbst, President SCBA

10:50.......South Carolina State Fair News - Cliff Ward, Director SCBA, West Columbia

11:00.......Beekeeping in Colorado - David MacFawn, Lexington

11:15.......Some of My Adventures in Beekeeping - Michael Watson, MD, Bamberg

11:40.......Word from Our Vendors

11:50.......Lunch On Your Own

1:20..........Door Prizes

1:30.........Apimondia (International Beekeeping Congress 2001- Durban, S. Africa) Report and Africanized Honey Bee Incident in Greenville - Mike Hood, Clemson University

2:00.........Promoting Beekeeping To The Younger Generation - Archie & Diane Biering, Bee City, Cottageville

2:30.........Stretch Break

2:45.........Commercial Beekeeping in South Carolina - Ben Ivey - Union

3:15.........Final Comments - Kurt Herbst, President, SCBA


...........................................SCBA Executive Committee Meeting
Honey Bars
Recipe By: Memphis Area Beekeepers
Serving Size: 72
- 1 cup honey
- 3 eggs — beaten
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 1/3 cups flour
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 pound chopped dates
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
Mix honey and well-beaten eggs together. Add baking powder and flour sifted together, then the chopped nuts, chopped dates, and flavoring. Spread in a greased pan (jelly roll size - 11 x 15). Bake at 350°F for 15 to 25 minutes. Cut in strips 1/2 inch wide and 3 inches long. Before serving, roll in powdered sugar.

Tater People
Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work. They are called "Speck Taters".

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work. They are called "Comment Taters".

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don’t want to soil their own hands. They are called "Dick Taters".

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. They are called "Agie Taters".

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing what they promised. They are called "Hezzie Taters".

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. They are called "Emma Taters".

Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. They are called "Sweet Taters".

Respectfully submitted,

William Michael Hood
Extension Apiculturist