South Carolina Beekeepers to Meet at Clemson University - The summer meeting of the South Carolina Beekeepers will be held at Clemson University, Clemson, SC on 11-13 July 2002. The meeting will begin at 1 PM on Thursday, 11 July in the Poole Agricultural Center Auditorium with an introductory beekeeping short course which will focus on the basics of beekeeping. The course is designed for new beekeepers, but everyone is welcome. Several South Carolina beekeepers will be instructors for the short course. The short course will break for dinner at 5:00 and session 2 of the short course will begin at 7:00 and end at 9:00 PM.

On Friday morning, we will begin with a general session at 8 AM and workshops will be held in the afternoon. We have several out-of-state speakers on the program including David De Jong from Brazil, Tom Sanford from Florida, Rick Hack from Kansas, Jennifer Berry from the University of Georgia, Ann Harmon from Flint Hill, Virginia, Bob Cole from Todd, North Carolina, Robert Brewer from Townes County, Georgia, Virginia and Carl Webb from Clarkesville, Georgia, and Steve Forrest from Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, Moravian Falls, North Carolina. For more details, you will find a meeting program in this newsletter. A special event is scheduled for spouses on Friday morning. They will visit the historic town of Walhalla which is about a 30 minute drive from Clemson.

A barbecue pork/baked chicken dinner is planned for Friday evening at Jimmy Howard’s home in Pendleton. Scheduled activities are the annual horseshoe pitching tourney and a tall tales contest. Dinner will be served for $6.00/plate. On Saturday morning, we will have another general session beginning at 8:15 that will include many interesting topics and the meeting will end at noon.

We will have a honey show and competition at our summer meeting this year. Bring along a container of your best honey. Please do not place a label on your honey containers. Honey classes will be 1 lb. extracted, pint extracted, and quart extracted. There will be light and dark classes, so do not be concerned if your honey is dark. Each beekeeper may enter only 2 jars of honey. Cliff Ward from the Mid-State Beekeepers will oversee this event. Ribbons will be awarded for each category.

The Lightsey Bridge Apartments on campus have been assigned to us for lodging at $38 per night (4 people maximum) and linen cost is an additional $6.50/person. Linen packets include sheets, two towels, washcloth, blanket, and pillow. The Lightsey Bridge Apartments are across the street from the SC Botanical Gardens. For check in, there will be a sign posted at the Lightsey Bridge Commons with a contact number to call. Someone will come and check you into your room. No reservations are necessary. Meals are available on campus at the Harcombe Food Court for Thursday lunch & dinner, Friday breakfast/lunch, and Saturday breakfast. There is also a food court in the new Hendrix Student Center which is about a 5 minute walk from our meeting building. And yes, this is the same place where you can buy the delicious ice cream and blue cheese.
The Madren Continuing Education and Conference Center located near campus has lodging available, also. Suites begin at $135 and Executive rooms, two queen beds $110, or one king bed $95 which includes a contl. bkfst. For reservations, call toll free 1-888-654-9020.

Other accommodations are available off campus in the Clemson area as follows: Lake Hartwell Inn of Clemson (formerly the Clemson Holiday Inn), $49, (864)-654-4450, no bkfst included in price; Clemson Comfort Inn, $55, (864)-653-3600, includes contl. bkfst; Clemson Hampton Inn, $74, (864)-653-7744, includes contl. bkfst; Clemson Ramada Inn, $62, (864)-654-7501, includes contl. bkfst; Clemson Days Inn, $49, (864) 653-4411, includes contl bkfst; Clemson Sleep Inn, $49, (864) 653-6000, includes contl bkfst. Mention that you are attending the South Carolina Beekeepers Convention to get the University rate.

Our designated parking lot for this meeting is the large commuter parking lot (orange marked parking spaces) behind the Poole Agricultural Center. You will need to pick up a hang tag for your vehicle at our registration desk.

Let's continue to make the South Carolina Beekeepers summer meeting a great success; invite some beekeeping friends to come along for an educational vacation.

If you have questions about the meeting, please contact Mike Hood, ph. 864-656-0346, email <mhood@clemson.edu>.

STATE FAIR 2002 - The 2002 South Carolina State Fair is scheduled to be held October 3-13, in Columbia. Our beekeeping exhibit at the Fair provides us a great opportunity to promote our products and the beekeeping industry. Fair visitors have been fascinated by our attractive displays of honey and other apiary products, including the observation hive and other educational items.

Our hats are off to those who participated in the 2002 fair exhibit, especially Cliff Ward who served as coordinator of our booth. Cliff has agreed to serve again this year as coordinator and will be giving a “State Fair Report” at our summer meeting in Clemson. Beekeepers who worked the booth last year were given the opportunity to sell their honey. I've heard some beekeepers did quite well so come to our summer meeting prepared to sign up to spend a day at the State Fair.

Plan now to enter some of your most attractive products and possibly an exhibit in the competition. Honey will be judged on absence of granulation, cleanliness (absence of lint, wax and foam), flavor, color and brightness, and overall appearance of the container.

There will be two classes of honey competition, light and dark. Each class will have the following entry categories: 1 lb. extracted, pint extracted, quart with comb, quart extracted, quart with comb, 2 lb. extracted and 1 lb with comb. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner for each category with a monetary prize of $10, $8 and $6 awarded respectively. Other categories include 1 lb beeswax.

A “Best Beekeeping Display” offers the largest monetary prizes ($75, $60, and $40). Displays are judged on educational value, advertising value, attractive arrangement, originality and variety, appearance, and quality of products. For more details of our South Carolina State Fair booth, call Cliff Ward in Columbia at (803) 794-5633.

Research Project Request - Beekeepers throughout South Carolina are asked to assist Mike Hood 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 from 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 summer meeting on 11-13 July. 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. Beetles are needed for all infested counties except Oconee and Richland Counties. Your help will be greatly appreciated.
Apistan for Varroa Control

The year 2001 was very challenging for all of us in the beekeeping community. As you know, the fight to control the varroa mite is more complex now that fluvalinate-resistant mite populations are widespread. Fluvalinate is the active ingredient in Apistan®.

In response to the growth of fluvalinate-resistant mite populations, the USDA has published guidelines for rotating varroa control products. Following such a program will help minimize the potential for hive damage. An excellent article outlining the rotational program and advising close monitoring of mite populations (by either the ether roll or sticky board methods) appeared in the June 2001 issue of the American Bee Journal (vol. 141, No. 6, p. 412). These monitoring methods should help beekeepers determine the economic thresholds for using any varroa mite control products.

As the business manager for Apistan Anti-Varooa Mite Strips, I concur with the USDA guidelines and strongly recommend that beekeepers with questions about the rotational program or monitoring methodology contact the USDA for more information. Please do this prior to using Apistan®, so that resistance does not cause you economic loss. The continued use of Apistan without consideration of these new guidelines may exacerbate the resistance problem, resulting in the continued erosion of Apistan’s effectiveness.

Wellmark International, the manufacturer of Apistan®, is dedicated to developing and marketing effective products. I appreciate the support of our distributors and beekeeper customers throughout this product stewardship challenge. Your understanding of this situation and cooperation with product rotation strategies will help keep important products available for many years to come.

Scott E. Boutilier, Business Manager, Apistan®

Sampling for Varroa

Monitoring Varroa populations is not only more popular, but necessary. This is especially true now that resistant populations have been found in conjunction with both fluvalinate (Apistan®) and coumaphos (CheckMite+®). Beekeepers can no longer take for granted that any legal treatment is effective unless they do some kind of post-treatment check. Two articles in the April 2002 Bee Culture emphasize this. One by J. Parkman and colleagues discusses building a “Tennessee Trap” using doorknob molding (1 3/8 inch by 3/8 inch) and 1/8 inch hardware cloth and transparent contact shelf paper. A companion piece by N. Ostiguy and associates also favors a sticky board, but the authors would “like to give beekeepers a choice between that device and the use of ether or powdered sugar roll. Nevertheless the sticky board concept has a lot going for it the authors conclude in determining if colonies have exceeded the economic threshold (the number of mites it takes to do economic damage) and treatment should be applied.

T. Sanford, April 13, 2002, APIS Newsletter

Detection of Varroa Resistant to Check Mite® (Coumaphos) in New Jersey

New Jersey beekeepers are facing a new challenge. This spring, honey bee colonies look great. They are very strong and they have lots of brood and food. We have thought that beekeepers will have a break from our expected annual colony loss. This thought did not last very long.

I have received reports that bee colonies showed high varroa mite counts in ether-roll. Some of the colonies had dead bees with damaged wings and dead pupae in front of bee hives. I responded to these reports. For the past few days, I screened Varroa mites for resistance to Check Mite+® and Apistan® using the test described by Pettis (ARS-USDA, Beltsville, MD).
I found that efficacy of Check Mite+® (Courmahos) was on the average 19%. Meanwhile, the efficacy of Apistan was on the average 75%. Pettis and I tested more colonies and found same results. It has become clear from these results that Check Mite+® resistance was found in the tested varroa mites in honey bee colonies in New Jersey.

At this time, we don’t know how widespread the Check Mite+® resistance is in New Jersey. We advised the beekeepers who have Check Mite+® resistant-Varroa mites to use Apistan®. Based on our testing for Apistan® resistance, beekeepers could achieve about 75% varroa kill. This action represents the best option because we have only a short window for treating these colonies before moving them to blueberry pollination. We expect these colonies will recover and will be able to do their job in pollinating the blueberry. We will continue monitoring these colonies to find the efficacy of Apistan® in controlling Varroa and the recovery of the bee population throughout the season.

Medhat Nasr, Ph. D., Extension Specialist in Apiculture, Blueberry & Cranberry Research Center, Rutgers Univ., N.J.

Industry Votes to Continue National Honey Board

Honey producers and importers voted in a February referendum to continue the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order.

In the continuing referendum, 51.47% of those who voted favored continuance of the program. Those favoring continuance represented 50.77 percent of the honey produced and imported by those voting.

In order to continue the program, a majority of the voters representing more than 50 percent of the honey produced and imported by those voting needed to favor the program.

Aggregate results: Yes - 717 @283.9 million lbs., No - 676 @275.3 million lbs. Producers: Yes - 676 @98 million lbs., No - 657 @149.7 million lbs. Importers: Yes - 41 @185.9 million lbs, No - 19 @125.6 million lbs.

By Region: Region 1: Yes - 143 @27.6 million lbs, No - 96 @14.9 million lbs., Region 2: Yes - 75 @13.7 million lbs, No - 75 @21.2 million lbs., Region 3: Yes - 50 @19.4 million lbs, No - 73 @46.1 million lbs., Region 3: Yes - 50 @19.4 million lbs, No - 73 @46.1 million lbs., Region 4: Yes - 158 @16 million lbs, No - 134@18.3 million lbs., Region 5: Yes - 48 @7.7 million lbs, No - 101 @25.4 million lbs., Region 6: Yes - 101 @9 million lbs., No - 79 @17.2 million lbs., Region 7: Yes - 101 @4.7 million lbs, No -99@6.6 million lbs.

Producers who voted to not continue the NHB have suggested that a review of the counting may be in order due to the closeness of the vote. At the same time, the litigation against the Board challenging the right of AMS, and the Board on producer’s first amendment rights is pending, and U.S. Packers have indicated of late that they are considering forming their own Board. Meanwhile, during negotiations between producers and packers and NHB members, many changes have been discussed to bring the operations into line more appealing to producers, and efficient for the Board to administer...the amount of honey produced required to receive a nonpay position (6000 lbs now, 250,000 being considered), and other provisions. The amount of negotiations, discussions and statements made by supporters of the NHB during this time indicate that business as usual will not be the case.

Catch The Buzz, Article 3-19-02, Kim Flottum

Pentagon Training Bees to Swarm into Action

The Pentagon is preparing a sting operation with a difference - training ordinary bees to smell out explosives, drugs and even to help clear minefields.

For the past three years government-funded scientists have been doing tests, training bees to detect materials other than pollen. Officials hope that they could be used as apian sniffer dogs, swarming into action when required.

In two tests last year, bees were able to detect two trucks tainted with explosives. Scientists say that bees are at least as sensitive to odours as dogs.
"The preliminary results have so far been very encouraging," said a spokeswoman for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which is funded by the Pentagon. 

The bees are trained to detect the various substances by a simple method of reward association. Scientists at the Air Force research laboratory in Texas said the bees were successful in 99 percent of tests. "One of the methods is to associate the odour with a food source," they said. The Pentagon is considering establishing colonies near security checkpoints.

by Andrew Buncombe, May 14, 2002

Roundtable Participants Propose New Program

LONGMONT, CO – The National Honey Board hosted a honey industry roundtable meeting on May 17 – 18 in Chicago. Roundtable participants discussed parameters for a new honey research and promotion program. Representatives from six major honey industry groups attended including the American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association, Mid U.S. Honey Producers, National Honey Packers and Dealers Association, Sioux Honey Association and Western States Packers and Dealers.

The proposed new program would focus on four areas — quality, protecting the image of honey, research and promotion. The group will implement the new program through legislation enacted in 1996 called the "Generic Statute." This statute allows the USDA to implement research and promotion boards more quickly than might otherwise be possible (such as by amending the National Honey Board legislation).

Under the proposed program, handlers and importers of greater than 250,000 pounds of honey annually would pay the assessment. It is estimated that 95 percent of current NHB funding levels would be maintained but the number of entities paying assessments would decline to approximately 100. The proposed new board would be led by nine honey industry members — four handlers, two importers, one representative of the honey marketing cooperative and two honey producers. Each year, the proposed board would set aside 5 percent of the budget for production research, to be returned to the general fund if no appropriate work was funded.

Should the proposed program fail in its authorizing referendum, each industry organization agreed to pay a share of the USDA charges (approximately $100,000) that are required to bring the proposed program to referendum. If the referendum passes, the USDA would be paid from assessments collected by the new Board. Only those subject to paying the assessment (packers and importers) would be eligible to vote in the referendum for the new program. Additional information on the proposal is attached.

"We are pleased that the National Honey Board hosted a forum in which industry leaders devised a program that may meet industry needs," said National Honey Board Chairman Gene Brandi. Brandi noted that the four areas of focus for the proposed program are the same as the focus of the current National Honey Board.

For 15 years the mission of the National Honey Board has been "to serve the honey industry by increasing demand for honey and honey products." The structure and operation of the Board, as dictated by the Honey Research, Promotion and Consumer Information Act, has remained generally stable since its inception.

Source: The National Honey Board Press Room, May 21, 2002

2002 SCBA SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE
SPOUSE’S PROGRAM

Friday, July 12, 2002

8:20AM........................Meet P&AS Bldg Lobby

8:30................................Depart P&AS Bldg

Tour Stop: Town of Walhalla
Carla O’Kelley, Tour Guide
(Shopping, Food, etc.)

1:00PM......................Return to the P&AS Bldg
2002 SCBA SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 11, 2002
12:00 N . . . . Meeting Registration - Poole Agricultural Center Lobby - $3 Members, $5 Family, $8 Nonmembers
Exhibitor Setup - Poole Agricultural Center Lobby

1:00 ........ Introductory Beekeeping Short Course - Session I

5:00 ........ Dinner on your own
             SCBA Executive Committee Meeting

7:00 ........ Introductory Beekeeping Short Course - Session II

9:00 ........ End of Short Course

Friday, July 12, 2002
8:00 AM .... Invocation - Jack Corbett, Camden, Past President SCBA
             Welcome to Clemson University - Neil Ogg, Director
             Regulatory & Public Service Programs, Clemson University

8:10 ........ Announcements and Introductions - Mike Hood, Extension Apiculturist, CU,
             Executive Secretary, SCBA

8:20 ........ President's Address and Business Meeting - Kurt Herbst, President - SCBA

8:45 ........ Legislative Update - Rep. Charles R. Sharpe, Dist. No. 86 (Aiken-Lexington Counties)

9:00 ........ Eastern Apicultural Society 2002 Meeting Announcement - Bob Cole, Todd, N.C.

9:10 ........ Africanized Honey Bees in Brazil - David De Jong, Professor of Genetics and
             Evolution, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

9:45 ........ Break - Visit Exhibitors

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

10:15 ....... Current Reflections on the Africanized Honey Bees in North America
             Tom Sanford, Professor Emeritus, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

10:45 ....... Proper Use of Check Mite +, Richard Hack, Product Manager-Farm Hygiene
             Bayer Agriculture Division, Shawnee Mission, Kansas

11:00 ....... Integrated Pest Management in Beekeeping (Varroa and Small Hive Beetle
             Control) Mike Hood

11:20 ....... Medicinal Products from the Hive in Brazil, David De Jong
11:45 ...... Lunch on your own

1:10 ...... Door Prizes, Announcements, Cliff Ward - State Fair Report and Workshop Introduction

1:30 ...... Concurrent 45 Minute Workshops (Sessions begin on the half hour)
   1. Price This Jar of Honey, Ann Harmon, Flint Hill, Virginia (Room E144)
   2. Equipment for the Beginner - Steve Forrest, Moravian Falls, North Carolina (Lobby)
   3. Discussion on Africanized Honey Bees & Hive Medicinal Products, David De Jong, Brazil (P&A S Auditorium)
   4. Pests and Disease Control Alternatives, Tom Sanford, Gainesville, Florida (Newman Hall Auditorium)
   5. Preparing Honey and Other Products for Competition, Virginia & Carl Webb (President Georgia Beekeepers Association, Clarkesville, Georgia) (Room A102)
   6. SC Master Beekeeper Program, written tests offered the last hour (Room A103)

4:30 ...... Depart for Evening Activities at Jimmy Howard’s Home
   Horseshoe Pitching Tourney, Barbecue Pork/Baked Chicken Supper ($6.00/Plate)
   Tall Tales Contest

Saturday, July 13, 2002
8:15 ...... Announcements & Door Prizes

8:30 ...... Results of the Honey Show - Judge Robert Brewer, Townes County, Georgia

8:45 ...... New Nectar Bearing Tree in South Carolina, Don Van Borsch, Columbia, Sec/Tres SCBA

9:00 ...... Preparing the Americas for Africanized Honey Bees, David De Jong, Brazil

9:30 ...... Beekeeping in Nigeria, Ann Harmon, Flint Hill, Virginia

10:00 ...... Break - Visit Exhibitors

10:25 ...... Door Prizes

10:30 ...... Managing Resistance to Chemicals, Tom Sanford

11:00 ...... Effects of Varroa Mites in Brazil, David De Jong

11:30 ...... UGA Queen Breeding Program, Jennifer Berry, Apiculture Research Coordinator, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

12:00 ...... Closing Comments, Kurt Herbst, President, SCBA

12:10 ...... End - Have a Safe Trip Home!
   SCBA Executive Committee Meeting

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