Two new local beekeepers groups were formed this year in South Carolina. The “Lakelands Beekeepers” was formed in Spring of 2001 and meets at the Master Gardener Store at the Crosscreek Mall in Greenwood. Members in this group include beekeepers from Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, and Saluda counties. According to President Paul LeRoy, the group gets its name from the fact that there are many lakes found in these counties. The group is made up of over 25 members who are all members of the South Carolina Beekeepers. The “Lancaster County Beekeepers” was established in summer of 2001 and members have been in the process of electing officers and writing their bylaws. They will meet monthly at a location to be designated in Lancaster County.

South Carolina Sets Fee On Out-of-State Migratory Beekeepers. South Carolina began charging fees for migratory beekeeping operations who move bees into the state beginning July 1, 2001. The fee collection will be administered by the Department of Plant Industry, Clemson University. All migratory beekeepers who wish to bring colonies into the state will be charged a fee of $100 for each beekeeping operation regardless of the number of colonies. The fees will help defray the costs of inspections, travel, import permit issuance, and monitoring for small hive beetles. If you have questions about this new fee program or any other aspect of the South Carolina Apiculture Inspection Program, call Fred Singleton, State Apiarist, at 843-821-3234, or Email: <fsngln@clemson.edu>. Also, Dr. Jack Jackson, Plant Industry Department Head, can be contacted at 864-646-2131.

Three honorary awards were presented at the “South Carolina Beekeepers” summer meeting in July. Gene Rogers of Walhalla and long time member of the “Oconee County Beekeepers” was named the “South Carolina Beekeeper of the Year” for 2001. Gene served 2 terms as president of the Oconee County Beekeepers and now serves as the group’s vice president. Currently, he serves as a regional representative on the South Carolina Beekeepers Executive Committee. Gene has hosted many local association meetings and classes at his farm where he has provided hands-on experience to students and new beekeepers. He has been very supportive of the beekeeping industry at both the local and state level for many years. Thanks, Gene.

Thomas Drumheller, a member of the “Lowcountry Beekeepers,” was presented the “South Carolina Junior Beekeeper of the Year” award which is a newly established award that will be presented annually by the South Carolina Beekeepers. Thomas is eleven years old and is the son of David and Gayle Drumheller of Summerville. Thomas began keeping bees in the spring of 1999 when he was nine years old. He now manages two bee colonies and has selected beekeeping as his major 4-H project. Thomas has given three presentations on honey bees and beekeeping, one at a Toastmasters class and two at 4-H Demonstration Days. He continues to learn more about honey bees and beekeeping, having read 4 beekeeping books and reads bee journal articles regularly. Keep up the good work, Thomas.

Gilbert Miller, Clemson University Cooperative Extension Agricultural Agent in Bamberg County, was presented the “Extension Agent of the Year” award. Gilbert is the secretary/program coordinator for the “Edisto Beekeepers.” He was instrumental in organizing the Edisto Beekeepers in 1997 and has been very active in the continued growth and support of the organization. Gilbert manages several honey bee colonies on his farm in Bamberg County. He has been active in research projects on strawberry and watermelon and has been involved in a Clemson University sponsored small hive beetle IPM control research project during the past year. Our hats are off to Gilbert Miller for doing a great job in support of the South Carolina Beekeeping Industry.

Small Hive Beetle Update: the small hive beetle continues to spread in South Carolina. Once a beekeeper
detects the small hive beetle, he/she should manage colonies with diligence to prevent stressful conditions that might enhance beetle reproduction. Conditions such as high levels of varroa mites, colony starvation, disease problems, or queen failure will lead to increased small hive beetle populations. Once small hive beetles are in the apiary, a few adult beetles will be found even in strong, stress-free bee colonies. Apparently, the beetles are unable to reproduce in healthy colonies unless massive numbers of adult beetles are present. Check Mite ® is registered in South Carolina under a section 18 emergency use label as an inside-hive treatment for small hive beetles. Colony treatment with this product must be applied at a time when bees are not making a surplus honey crop. Remove honey supers before application and do not replace until 14 days after the strips are removed. To treat a beetle infested colony, cut the Check Mite ® strip in half and fasten them underneath a piece of cardboard (4 x 4 inches with one side of backing stripped to expose corrugations) with strips and exposed corrugations facing down on the bottom board near the back of the colony. Leave the treatment in for a duration according to the label directions or until removal because of an impending surplus honey flow. Use this product only when adult beetles are actively moving in the colony which is normally at daytime temperatures of 70°F (21°C) or greater.

A vulnerable point of the small hive beetle’s life cycle is when mature larvae exit the bee colony and enter the soil to pupate. A beekeeper may drench the soil underneath the colony with Gardstar® which is a pesticide registered as a soil drench for small hive beetle control. This treatment will hopefully kill the beetles in the soil and break the life cycle of the pest, thereby preventing more adult beetles from re-infesting the same colony or spreading to other colonies. The soil treatment product is not recommended as a preventive treatment in small hive beetle free areas.

For more information on small hive beetles, visit the Clemson University Department of Entomology website at: http://entweb.clemson.edu/cuentes/index.htm. Click on “Insect Information Series”, “Apiculture and Pollination”, then “Small Hive Beetle.”

Local Attractions and Strong Program To Provide Power Punch for American Beekeeping Federation/Savannah-2002

When the American Beekeeping Federation convention meets in Savannah, January 19, 2002, beekeepers will learn what makes Georgia’s first city one of the top tourism destinations in the nation. They will also be reminded why the ABF Convention is an annual “must” for many beekeepers.

History is Savannah’s forte. The city has the largest National Landmark Historical District; the Georgia Historical Society library is a treasure for genealogists; three historical forts will feed the hunger of Revolutionary War and Civil War buffs. The Mighty 8th Air Museum provides more modern military history.

If nature attracts you, check out the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, and the beaches of Tybee Island and Hilton Head Island. For the more adventurous, boat trips can be arranged to islands not accessible by car.

If nightlife is your recreation, you will be pleased to find that Savannah’s River Street district of restaurants and clubs is just a short walk from the headquarters hotel, the Savannah Marriott Riverfront. And for the shoppers, Savannah has it all, from the River Street boutiques, to regional malls, to outlet centers.

Meanwhile, back at the convention, the most informed presenters in the industry will be covering every topic of interest to beekeepers. Among those who have been invited are Jeff Pettis, Marla Spivak, Patti Elzen, George Imirie, and Keith Delaplane.

The Wednesday afternoon Special Interest Groups will allow the various segments of the industry to delve more deeply into their interests. The Saturday morning Educational Workshop will provide close-up looks at several areas of interest.

The convention will feature a pre-convention trip to Wilbanks Apiaries in nearby Claxton and a 3-day post-convention bus tour through North Florida and South Georgia. That trip will feature bee-related stops as well as unusual “non-bee” stops.

For information on attending the convention or exhibiting your products and services in the ABF Trade Show contact the ABF Office, P.O. Box 1038, Jesup, GA 3198, ph. 912-427-4233, fax 912-427-8447, email: info@ABFnet.org; website: www.ABFnet.org.
Terrorists Attacks
Throw
Queen Mail into
tailspin

The mailing of queen bees – already thrown into confusion by the U.S. Postal Service's shifting air mail to Federal Express and by an erroneous USPS notice that Northwest Airlines would not haul bees – came to a halt with the terrorist attacks on September 11.

All first class mail for destinations over 600 miles (normally carried by air) was halted for several days. Then, when airliners resumed operations, the uncertain air service and the backlog of mail to be moved caused the Postal Service to impose an embargo on shipment of all live animals. USPS headquarters in Washington said the matter was the subject of daily discussions and that live animal mailings would resume when reliable delivery could be ensured. In addition, due to FAA safety regulations, airliners were not carrying parcels weighing more than one pound.

Mailing of all bees became a subject of concern in late August when the Postal Service began to utilize FedEx airplanes to transport Express Mail, Priority Mail and First-Class Mail, rather than its customary practice of using scheduled airliners. FedEx initially said it would not accept live animals for shipment; however, reportedly, the company does accept shipments of crickets.

Then, on Sept. 1, the Postal Service announced that Northwest Airlines would no longer carry live animals. Northwest was one of four major commercial airlines USPS officials were relying on to carry the live animal shipments refused by FedEx. It turned out that the USPS notice was in error; the ban applied only to poultry and birds. That was clarified just before the terrorists struck.

Some bee shippers have turned to United Parcel Service for their shipments of queens, and some are even using UPS to ship package bees. They applaud the reliability of the UPS service, but they say it comes at a high cost, compared to using the Postal Service.

Shippers hope that they will be able to convince FedEx to drop its prohibition on bees before next spring's shipping season.

Some shippers have been told by Postal officials that they expect USPS to limit mailing of package bees to the fourth postal zone next year. Already, this is the limit on insurability of packages. Shippers are encouraging beekeepers to pool their orders and pick up their bees in their own vehicles. (The Speedy Bee, June 2001)

Rotating Treatments for Varroa
By Dr. Tom Sanford
IFAS/Univ. of Fla.

Fluvalinate-resistant Varroa is now a reality and might be true in the near future for coumaphos as well, although no evidence yet exists for this. Thus, pesticide resistance management becomes more and more an issue for beekeepers. An important part of this concept is rotating chemical treatments to prolong their effectiveness. Dr. Patti Eizen and colleagues have published a simple plan consisting of using coumaphos for two years followed by a single treatment (not year) of fluvalinate. In "Acaricide Rotation Plan for Control of Varroa," American Bee Journal (Vol. 141, No. 6, p. 412, June), they also strongly advise monitoring populations using ether roll and/or sticky board and electing not to treat when populations are below the economic threshold.

A surprising conclusion of the research was that use of amitraz seemed to cause fluvalinate resistance to increase in Varroa populations. The authors say this might be due to cross-resistance between amitraz (a formamidine pesticide) and fluvalinate (a pyrethroid pesticide). Research in Florida indicates amitraz in fact does not control fluvalinate-resistance populations. Thus, the authors advocate no further study along these lines and discourage any use of amitraz (no formulations of this product is labeled for Varroa control in U.S. honey bee colonies). In conclusion, the objectives of the plan presented above to rotate fluvalinate and coumaphos are to decrease mite resistance developing to either fluvalinate and/or coumaphos, and to completely avoid amitraz use. In the final analysis, the authors conclude, reduced amounts of pesticides will be used in honey bee colonies by beekeepers, resulting in less potential hive and product contamination. (APIS - May 2001)
SMRD Honey Bees: Breakthrough in Varroa Tolerance

Dr. Jeff Harris of the USDA Honey Bee Breeding Lab in Baton Rouge, Louisiana provided some exciting information at the latest meeting of the South Alabama Beekeepers’ Association in Mobile. It seems that suppression of mite reproduction is a genetically inherited trait that results in Varroa-tolerant bees. This characteristic, called SMR, is just one of several found in Africanized honey bees that have potential use in selection programs. Fortunately, the trait is widespread in the U.S. honey bee populations and is readily available in the present gene pool. However, in order to begin a selection program, there must be a technology to measure the trait. A full description of the work done by Dr. Harris along with Dr. John Harbo appears in the May 2001 issue of Bee Culture (Vol. 129, No. 5, pp 34-39) and on the ARS Web site.

According to the authors, all female Varroa in a bee colony do not attempt to reproduce at the same time. Generally one-third of the mites can be found on adult bees, and the rest in the brood cells. And some 15 to 25 percent of mites that enter brood cells do not in fact reproduce. These individuals may be mites that die before laying eggs, live but do not lay eggs, produce only a male and no females, and/or produce progeny too late to mature before bee emergence. One or all of these categories may be found in any one honey bee colony.

The number of non-reproducing mites in a colony is measured by examining about 30 singly infested brood cells and recording the reproductive success of each female found there. Several environmental variables affect the percentage of non-reproducing (NR) mites. These include temperature and humidity (increase NR) season (higher NR in summer) and climate (larger NR in the tropics). NR mites also often have no sperm (have not been mated) and in some cases, dead mites are found “entrapped by the pupal cocoon.”

Over 50 percent of mites in colonies selected for NR have been found so entrapped. Of passing interest is the fact that non-reproducing mites deposit their feces on the bee pupae rather than beside it.

It takes about six weeks after requeening a colony with an SMR queen to see results. This is called by authors “delayed mite suppression,” or SMRd. Mite suppression also occurs immediately in some populations, and is called SMRI. To show how SMR queens affect change in a colony, the authors performed several queen exchanges between control and SMR colonies, and found that mite populations became more or less reproductive based on the queen received. They conclude: “We are confident that honey bees will become resistant to Varroa mites.” More encouragingly, they say that in the future, “Bees will need fewer chemical treatments to control mites. Eventually they will need none.”


The latest on Bee Mite Resistance to Pesticides

Farmers have long known about insect resistance to chemicals. In recent years, U.S. beekeepers have discovered the same problem when it comes to controlling bee mites.

Over the last decade, the honey bee attacking varroa mite has developed resistance to the pyrethroid pesticide fluvalinate. That has spurred interest in alternative chemical controls for the mite, the number one pest of U.S. honey bees.

But finding alternatives can be costly. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) studies on toxicities of anti-mite compounds could help prevent future wasteful outlays of research dollars on development of pesticides most likely to soon become ineffective.

For example, recent research points to futility in considering the formerly registered acaricide amitraz as an alternative for varroa mite control. Scientists at the Kika De La Garza Subtropical Agricultural Research Center, Weslaco, Texas, have found that resistance to fluvalinate commonly goes hand-in-hand with resistance to amitraz. Chemically, fluvalinate and amitraz aren’t related, but mite detoxifying enzymes may render both ineffective.

On a positive note, ARS research at Weslaco does show that fluvalinate-resistant varroa mites become significantly less resistant after a two-year hiatus from treatments.

The Weslaco scientists are seeking alternatives to extensive use of less environmentally friendly pesticides such as a coumaphos, an organophosphate. For example, the scientists are researching the biology of fluvalinate-resistant varroa mites, hoping to find ways to survey mite populations for lack of resistance so coumaphos treatments can often be avoided.

By late last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had approved exemption labels in 45 states to allow strictly controlled use of plastic strips impregnated with coumaphos to control varroa mites and another pest, the small hive beetle, Aethina tumida. (ARS News Release)
Honey Board Sets up Online Honey Search Engine

Beekeepers and other interested honey industry members are invited to sign up for a listing on the Honey Locator – the National Honey Board's online guide for families, chefs, manufacturers and others to find sources for local and specific floral varieties of U.S. honeys.

"As honey producers know, there are remarkable differences in honeys based upon production region and floral variety," said Julia Parnack, industry services director for the National Honey Board. "The Honey Board created the Honey Locator to help educate consumers about the multitude of different floral sources and flavors of honey available and to make sure that they can find the honey they want."

The Honey Locator is a search engine that is connected to the National Honey Board's website (www.honeycom and www.nhb.org). More than 8.5 million people visited these websites last year and even more are expected to visit the sites in 2001 as the Honey Board publicizes its new Honey Locator.

To list your company and honeys on the Honey Locator, just call 1-888-421-2977 and press number 5 or visit www.nhb.org for a Honey Locator Listing Request Form. If you paid at least $60 in assessments in 2000, you are eligible for a free listing. (If not, you must pay a combined assessment/fee of $60). ABJ - May 2001

American Honey Show Looking for Many Good Samples

With apologies to the Marine Corps for mangling their slogan, the American Honey Show Committee is looking for many good samples of America's best honey and beeswax for the annual competition, which will be in Savannah, Ga. Jan. 16-19, 2002, as part of the American Beekeeping Federation convention.

"We hope to have a good representation from honey across the country," says Honey Show Chairman Sharon Gibbons. "The Beeswax Candles category we added last year proved to be a hit; so, we are continuing that this year. Other than dates and shipping instructions, there are no rule changes this year."

The Beeswax Candles may be dipped, molded, or rolled of sheets – as long as they are 100% beeswax. As with the other beeswax entries, no non-beeswax enhancement is permitted.

The entry may consist of a single candle, a pair of candles, or a group of candles. The minimum weight of the entry is 0.5 lb., the maximum is 2 lbs. The entry will be judged on cleanliness of wax, design and appearance, finishing details and originality.

The Honey Show Committee reminds potential entrants that the "wigwam" straight cylinder chunk honey jars formerly required for the "chunk honey" and "creamed honey" classes are not longer available for purchase. Available stock of the "wigwam" jar may be used. Alternatively, round chunk honey jars with small shoulders may be used.

Another reminder which could put extra money in a winner's pocket: in addition to the regular Honey Show prize, Gambler Container will give $100.00 savings bonds to first place winners in the liquid honey classes who pack their entries in the Gambler Classic jars; second place winners get a $25.00 Gambler gift certificate.

The Committee also reminds entrants that they should contact the ABF Office at American Beekeeping Federation, PO Box 1038, Jesup, GA 31548 for a complete set of rules, including an entry form and an official score sheet.


Remember to set your clocks back, DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ends October 28, 2001
Learning Has Never Been Sweeter!

Longmont, CO – Most kids eat honey and see bees around them without knowing about the complex and cooperative effort that bees go through to make honey. With that in mind, the National Board has created an educational program about honey production that includes an in-depth teacher’s guide and creative video for fourth through sixth graders. The program is called “The Honey Flies: A Bee’s Life” and it makes learning about bees and honey, fun and easy. The teacher’s guide contains 96 pages full of worksheets, class activities, games, fun facts and more. The 20-minute video has a comical host who lightheartedly goes through the exploration of bees, pollination and of course, honey!

Typically children begin to learn about science, nature and insects during the fourth through sixth grades. Innovative programs like “The Honey Flies: A Bee’s Life” can assist educators in making these subjects interesting and fun. The social behavior of honey bees is a fascinating lesson for kids and is an excellent example of how cooperation in a society achieves sweet success.

The National Honey Board went to great lengths to make this program easy to use for teachers. “The Honey Flies: A Bee’s Life” includes extraordinary detail about the story of bees and the production of honey and an abundance of fun ideas to use in the classroom. Some of the topics covered include honey bee biology, the bee society, and pollination. Classroom activities include learning how bees communicate, reviewing the parts of the flower, looking at the many uses of honey and much more.

Jami Yanoski, the National Honey Board’s Marketing Manager, spearheaded the development of “The Honey Flies: A Bee’s Life.” According to Yanoski, “Dr. James E. Tew, PhD., a well known entomologist at Ohio State University Bee Lab, reviewed the teacher’s guide and made recommendations on text and illustrations and we had educators and board members review the materials for usefulness and accuracy.” Regarding getting the word out about this program, Yanoski says “The National Honey Board will actively promote “The Honey Flies: A Bee’s Life” education program to teachers through Ag in the Classroom, 4H and press releases to news organizations.”

There are several ways to order “The Honey Flies: A Bee’s Life” education program.

1. Call Annette Laber at the National Honey Board Office (800-553-7162).
2. Look for an order form in the National Honey Board’s August newsletter.
3. Go to the Honey.com Web site and download an order form (www.honey.com/kids/video/).

The educational program, including guide and video, is $15.00 (shipping and handling included) and takes about four weeks for delivery. With “The Honey Flies: A Bee’s Life,” kids across America and beyond will learn about bees, honey and all the many sweet uses for honey.

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**2002 Calendar**

January 15–20, 2002
American Beekeeping Federation, Savannah, Georgia

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

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

August 4–10, 2002
Eastern Apiculture Society, Cornell Univ., New York
Honey Pot Oatmeal Cookies

1 cup peanut butter  
1 cup honey  
1/4 cup granulated sugar  
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter or margarine in sticks, softened  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
1/4 cup milk  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
3 cups Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)  
1-3/4 cup flour**  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 cup golden raisins  

**If using old fashioned oats, add an additional 2 tablespoons flour

Directions:
In large bowl, beat peanut butter, honey, sugar and butter with electric mixer until creamy. Add egg, milk and vanilla; mix well. Add combined oats, flour and baking soda; mix well. Stir in raisins and peanuts. Heat oven to 375°F. Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 7 to 10 minutes or until light golden brown. Remove to wire rack; cool completely. Store tightly covered at room temperature or wrap airtight and freeze.

Makes about 5 dozen

*NOTE: Soft spreads in tubes and stick spreads with less than 70% vegetable oil are not recommended for this recipe.

Caramel Honey Apples

Great treat for the kids!

Dish Details:

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup light brown sugar, packed  
1/2 cup butter  
1/2 cup honey  
1/4 cup heavy cream  
1/4 tsp cinnamon  
1/3 cup chopped nuts  
5 to 6 small apples (4 to 6 ounces each) sticks for the apples

PREPARATION:

1. Combine all ingredients except apples and nuts in 2-quart saucepan. Cook over medium-high heat to 265°F; stir constantly.

2. Remove from heat and cool 5 minutes.

3. Insert small popsicle-type sticks into apples. Holding apple by stick, rolling hot honey mixture to coat; roll bottom of apple in nuts if desired.

4. Place on waxed paper squares to cool. Repeat with remaining apples.

Respectfully submitted,

William Michael Hood  
Extension Apiiculturist

Source: the Honey Expert.Com