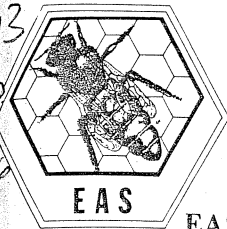


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EAS JOURNAL

EASTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.

FEBRUARY, 1976

BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE 1976 DELAWARE VALLEY COLLEGE, DOYLESTOWN, PA. 18901

Spring: Saturday March 27, April 3 and 10, 1976

Delaware Valley College will be offering its regular Spring three-day beekeeping course this year. The course is being offered under the direction of Dr. Robert Berthold (Assistant Professor of Biology) in cooperation with Mr. Jack Matthenius (New Jersey Supervisor of Bee Culture). Instruction will take place on the Delaware Valley Campus, with the College bee yards and small scale honey house being utilized.

About 100 persons attended the 1975 Spring short course. Included in this group were experienced beekeepers, novices, and those considering taking up beekeeping as a hobby. There were also quite a few educators who were planning to use the information presented during the short course in their own classroom situation.

Total cost for the three days of instruction is \$17 (this does not include meals or lodging). An application for the course or further information may be obtained by writing Dr. Robert Berthold, c/o Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, Pa. 18901, or calling him at area code 215-345-1500.

There will be a similar course offered June 23 through June 25, 1976.

- Program -

Day 1 - Saturday, March 27, 1976

- 9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee (Mandell Hall Auditorium).
- 9:45 a.m. Welcome to Delaware Valley College
- 10:00 a.m. Introduction of Participants
- 10:15 a.m. Honey Bee Life History (Film)
- 11:00 a.m. Bee Yard - Manipulation of Colony and Members of Hive
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Beekeeping Equipment and How to Assemble
- 2:00 p.m. Major Honey Bee Diseases & Enemies
- 2:45 p.m. Bee Yard - Colony Manipulation Class Assembling of Equipment

Day 2 - Saturday, April 3, 1976

- 9:00 a.m. Obtaining Your Bees.
- 9:45 a.m. Bee Yard - Establishing Colonies
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:30 a.m. Spring Management including Swarm Prevention & Control

- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Managing for Honey Flow
- 1:45 p.m. Successful Overwintering
- 2:15 p.m. Queen Rearing
- 2:45 p.m. Bee Yard - Queen Rearing & Introduction

Day 3 - Saturday, April 10, 1976

- 9:00 a.m. Nectar Producing Flora
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:30 a.m. Beekeeping Organizations and Services
- 11:15 a.m. Questions & Answers
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Presentation of Certificates
- 1:15 p.m. Removal, Extraction and Processing of Honey Crop
- 1:45 p.m. Marketing the Honey Crop and Beeswax
- 2:15 p.m. Bee House - Removal, Extraction, and Bottling of Honey. Handling and use of Beeswax. Mead making.

SPRINGTIME & BEES

Springtime is a busy season with honey bees. It is an exciting time when the beekeeper faces some of the greatest challenges to his or her ability and skill in handling of bees.

The three major features of bee biology in the spring are cluster formation and movement in the hive, the rapidly increasing brood and adult populations and the strong drive for colonies to divide (swarm) as the populations increase and chemical communicative systems are expanded to their limits. Understanding this biology greatly improves the chances of successful management in the spring by the beekeeper. Timing is very important and the beekeeper must know his or her bee botany. Add a good measure of skill and even luck (or beekeeping art) and in a nutshell you have the beekeepers spring activities.

Things happen rapidly in bee colonies during the spring. Fall is referred to as the beginning of the beekeepers calendar because the fall colony properly managed is prepared to expand normally in the early spring with only minor adjustments by the beekeeper. The early spring colony should have 30 to 40 pounds of non-crystallized honey above and to the sides of a cluster of 10,000 to 20,000 bees and a queen. No disease (including Nosema) should be

EAS JOURNAL Eastern Apicultural Society of North America, Inc.

President	Homer Powers 203 North Governor St. Richmond, Virginia 23225 Office phone (804) 770-3516 Home phone (804) 272-4633
First Vice-President	Jack Jones, Jr. 1403 North Courthouse Road Arlington, Virginia 22201 Office phone (703) 525-8585 Home phone (703) 893-1690
Second Vice-President	Dr. Dale P. Bray 18 South Parkway Newark, Delaware 19711
Treasurer-Historian	Mrs. Marie Morse Cornwall-Bridge Road Sharon, Connecticut 06050 Home phone (203) 364-5280
Secretary	Walter D. Wilson 81 Chestnut Street Fair Haven, New Jersey 07701 Home phone (201) 747-9717
Director of Public Relations	David C. Newton Central Conn. State College New Britain, Conn. 06050
Editor	J.C. Matthenius, Jr. 516 Victory Avenue Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865
Co-Editor	J.R. Wojciechowski 109 N. Feltus St. South Amboy, N.J. 08879

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E.A.S. Journal \$2.00; Member \$3.00*; Joint membership \$4.00*; Family Membership \$6.00*; Commercial Membership \$50.00*; Life Membership \$100.00*
Association Membership \$25.00*.

*Of which \$2.00 is subscription to Journal.

present and pests should be controlled. The top of the colony must vent excess moisture produced when the cluster heats cold air and the warm, moisture-laden air rises to the hive covers.

The bee cluster is needed to keep the temperature of individual bees from dropping below 44 degrees F. On cold days and nights the cluster is very compact and as the bees on the outer limits get cold they crawl towards the center of the cluster. At the center, the temperature usually will not drop below 80 degrees F. and later in the spring the temperature will stay near 92 degrees F. so that the developing brood doesn't get chilled. The cluster moves upward with the outer limits always in contact with cells filled with honey.

Spring brood rearing increases rapidly as pollen is collected in the field. Bees use pollen stored from the fall plants the previous season but much of its nutritive value has been lost in storage. Fresh pollen is extremely valuable and in areas where the honey plants bloom early (such as tulip or blackberry) the beekeeper should provide ideal wintering conditions and select locations where early pollen can be secured (generally near water sources or suburban areas). The new brood requires dilute honey and honey stores are used rapidly once the colony begins its brood population increase. Water is used to dilute the stored honey. Twenty-one days are required for an egg to hatch into an adult and by mid to late March more bees are hatching than adults are dying on a daily basis and the adult population begins to increase in total numbers. Broodrearing is rapid with the queen producing 1,000 or more eggs daily and the adult population increases rapidly as well.

The population increase is a time of extreme stress as the age groupings of adult bees are unbalanced. Initially most of the bees are older overwintered bees who are not efficient in caring for brood. The younger bees who hatch spend less time on hive duties because they are needed to collect pollen and then nectar or water for the brood. Microorganisms that are present multiply rapidly and disease may become a problem. Somehow most colonies get through this very critical time of the year and begin to grow. The rapidity or slowness in which they do is what the beekeeper must learn to judge and manipulate. Timing is important.

As the brood rearing and adult population



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increases the queen is eggs and produce chemicals necessary for may become less efficient difficulty moving about hive. Crowding and other important factors in leaving swarming. Control of swarming large honey yields or services.

Understanding the biology can lead to success and making necessary manipulations are important since crops bloom too early in extensive spring management population. The beekeeper avoid swarming however stimulate weak colonies a

Spring is a busy time by applying bee biological manipulations to build the honey flow to produce Good honey crops and let are your best report card beekeeper you are.

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controlled. The top of moisture produced air and the warm, five covers.

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increases the queen is extended in her ability to lay eggs and produce chemicals. The distribution of chemicals necessary for smooth colony operations may become less efficient as bees have greater difficulty moving about in an increasingly crowded hive. Crowding and distribution of chemicals are important factors in leading to the preparations for swarming. Control of swarming is critical to produce large honey yields or provide adequate pollination services.

Understanding the major features of bee biology can lead to successful spring management and making necessary minor adjustments in early spring are important since most Maryland honey crops bloom too early in the season to allow for extensive spring manipulations of cluster or population. The beekeeper must manage colonies to avoid swarming however and can effectively stimulate weak colonies and make them productive.

Spring is a busy time. It can also be productive by applying bee biology and basic colony manipulations to build the best possible colony for the honey flow to produce a maximum honey crop. Good honey crops and low incidence of swarming are your best report card of how good a spring beekeeper you are.

E.A.S. JOURNAL N.J. B.A. NEWS

The new Secretary of the Eastern Apicultural Society is Walt Wilson of Fair Haven, N.J. Walt has been an active member of the EAS since its beginning. He is the Vice President of the Central New Jersey Beekeepers Association and the Treasurer for the ETO fund of New Jersey

Walt has operated around 300 colonies of bees for the past 25 years and is Inspector of Bee Culture for the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture. Walt is a very capable person and we are fortunate in having this caliber of person as Secretary of EAS.

If you have any correspondence concerning EAS, please contact Walt Wilson at 81 Chestnut St., Fair Haven, N.J. 07701 (Telephone 609-747-9717).

E.A.S. MEETING SCHEDULE

1976 Meeting

V.P.I. & S.U., Blacksburg, Va., Aug. 11-14.

1977 Meeting

University of Delaware, Newark, Del., Aug. 17-20

1978 Meeting

Ohio.

1979 Meeting

Ottawa, Canada (if approved)



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Members of EAS have been busy in recent weeks, the traditional convention season, for nature people, ranging from the bushy bearded to the corporate jet riders.

In Baton Rouge, the ARS-USDA hosted the Apiary Inspectors of America, demonstrated the perpetuation of bee life with artificial insemination and the extermination of bee life with resmethrin. Genetics held center stage. I was present, and heard some of the same scientific testimony offered earlier at Ohio State where I represented EAS at a scientific review in which ARS-USDA scientists discussed potential projects, and in particular, a proposed project dealing with African bee.

At Philadelphia, past EAS president J.C. Matthenius, your editor appeared as a program speaker at the assembly of the American Beekeeping Federation. Jack's loyal service to EAS is never hidden, even when wearing other hats.

The scene around Washington, D.C. was visited by persons attending the American Honey Producers Assn. convention held in Virginia. EAS was recognized by that organization of commercial beekeepers by asking me to welcome their members to Virginia. Earlier, they patronized our stage manner by using our beehive-in-a-cage demonstration at their congressional reception in the Rayburn building. Which brings us full circle, back to the weather -- the colony used in that demonstration was a mongrel swarm I had caught last spring. Their stores were adequate, and properly positioned; the queen had four hand-sized patches of brood, and the workers put on a good show in the cage even though we had no opportunity to leave the oldest ones behind. As time goes on, I hope it will always be possible to be able to work a mongrel colony in an urban location, in the dead of winter and do it with pleasure, instead of merely recalling such enjoyment as a part of the good old days.

The program for the 1976 conference is about two-thirds completed, a few spots being held open in case we should get windfall in the form of some stellar speaker from overseas who will be in attendance at the XV International Congress of Entomology to be held in Washington, D.C., 19-27 August. Should any serious apiologist who has not already received information on the Congress, be interested and wish to receive the Second Announcement and forms, you may send a card with your name and address and congress section of major interest to the Secretary-General, XV International Congress of Entomology, Box 151 College Park, Maryland 20740.

Show chairmen are preparing for a large number of entries this year, and able judges await our exhibits. Some years ago I won a cooking contest. -- Would it be fair for me to compete as a cook? The answer is no because it would divert attention that belongs to you as conferees. So

everyone is urged to enter something to fill both your place and mine.

THE BEGINNER AND HIS BEES

When a beginner becomes the owner of bees, it may be a terrifying prospect. He or she may conjure up visions of hordes of stinging insects, or fall under the spell of some book that has made them believe that it is all honey and a gentle hum on a still summer day. Neither of these is the truth. What is true is that beekeeping is a fascinating hobby that brings you into touch with nature. It also calls for a great deal of skill and understanding. You must make friends with an experienced beekeeper so that he or she, may guide you thru the critical early days. Beekeeping is not a hobby that can be conducted with a guide book in one hand and a smoker in the other.

It is important to be quite ready to receive your colony, in whatever form you have chosen. Have a site picked out, with the advice of your beekeeping friend, and have it ready, leveled and sheltered. Your equipment must also be in order and you will need a smoker and appropriate fuel. A good veil is also a great help. Now you set the hive in place and prepare frames with foundation. Of course, if you buy an established colony then the hive will come with the bees. Be sure and have experienced advice on buying established colonies, - you can buy trouble if you act alone.

Beginners must remember that when buying bees from a recognized bee source, the price may be high, but the cost much lower than many so-called bargains. No such seller will sell you a bad colony and if, by chance they do, they are always ready to make good the deficiency. They also will help you with sound advice. In the beekeeping world we are blessed in having helpful and understanding suppliers.

However, your best asset is that friendly neighboring beekeeper. Stick to his advice for he is always at hand to help best if he knows exactly what you have been doing. Later on when you have had a year or two of experience behind you, you may choose to launch out on your own, but for the beginner the best adviser is always the one who is there to help.

If you are to gain confidence in handling bees and become familiar with what is going on inside the hive, you must practice and this can only come by opening up the hive. Later you will learn that this is no way to produce honey - but it is a way to gain experience. Visit other beekeepers and especially demonstrations. See how they work and if they are generous enough to let you handle their bees, then seize the opportunity with both hands - literally!

AND sit awhile, quietly by your bees and watch them at work as they fly from their hive. You will learn much there too.

PROFES AT BEEK

Dr. Robert Be
Biology at Delaware
speaker at the Ches
scheduled for Saturd

The all day Sem
House of the Friends
of Westtown School I

The beekeepers
various speakers di
other related subjects

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PROFESSOR TO LECTURE AT BEEKEEPERS SEMINAR

Dr. Robert Berthold, Assistant Professor of Biology at Delaware Valley College, will be the main speaker at the Chester County Beekeepers Seminar scheduled for Saturday, the 14th of February, 1976.

The all day Seminar will be held at the Meeting House of the Friends Society located on the campus of Westtown School located in Westtown, Pa.

The beekeepers will meet at 9:30 to hear various speakers discuss beekeeping topics and other related subjects.

Following an informal, bring your own lunch at noon, Berthold will address the group on the subject of Beeswax.

The illustrated talk will feature techniques in obtaining and purifying beeswax, followed by a discussion on the uses of beeswax such as candlemaking, etc.

The presentation will include a workshop and demonstration as well as a question and answer period.

GOOD COMBS

Never underestimate the importance of good combs. Next to poorly made hives that require a hatchet or cold chisel to open, or poorly made frames that one cannot put in or take out of a hive, are POOR COMBS.

Bad equipment means a big waste of time, infuriated colonies, a lot of painful stings, and a whole apiary in an uproar. Poor combs can mean an economic waste.

If combs are crooked or uneven bees are crushed when any attempt is made to remove them. Too, the matter is made worse when the position of such combs must be changed. Often the queen will seek out crooked comb and lay drone eggs in every cell. This causes thousand of useless drones to be reared. Nature left to itself is apt to be lavish in furnishing more males than are necessary. Drones are consumers and are a drain on the future supply of the colony. It is possible to have only 50 to 60 percent worker brood in a ten frame hive. This situation is brought on by faulty combs.



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Fall Board of Directors Meeting Charlottesville, Virginia

President Pat Powers called the meeting to order:

The Treasurer's report was made by Marie Morse and K.G.A. Andersson, our past president, informed us that the E.A.S. donated \$2,000 to the Maritime Academy for a scholarship fund. Because they did not charge us for lodging, meeting halls, PA equipment, etc., K.G.A. Andersson reported that some of the Massachusetts County Beekeeper Groups donated \$1,039.73 which was used for gifts from Yankee Crafters \$600, pads and pencils for the Lady's Luncheon \$142.32, \$19.57 for miscellaneous items such as tickets for the Clam Bake and Banquet, \$139.12 for beer and cups for the Clam Bake and \$16.34 for the telephone calls. A balance of approximately \$150.00 was left which had not been committed.

Dr. Caron, Maryland, expressed a big thank you on behalf of the Conference, for all the work Massachusetts did in 1975.

The Secretary's Report was requested from President Powers on the E.A.S. Journal. The Journal is up to 10 pages and around 700 copies are printed. Mrs. Liz Rodriques is doing a fine job on selling ads in the Journal. Dr. Gay, Delaware D. made a motion to have the Secretary send a Thank You card to Mrs. Rodriques for the job she is doing. Also, a Get Well card was signed by those present and sent to Jack and Betty Matthenius, Jr., New Jersey. They could not attend because of an auto accident. The Secretary also requested some new stationery and envelopes and Marie assured him

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that it would be taken care of.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Pat Powers, President, Virginia; Shimp, D., New Jersey; Dr. Caron, D., Maryland; Cochran, P.P., West Virginia; Dr. Gay, D., Delaware; Rigby, D., Massachusetts; Milgey, D., Connecticut; Hugh Maclean, P.P., Ontario, Canada; K.G.A. Andersson, P.P., Massachusetts; Divelbiss, D., Ohio; J. Jones, Jr., V.P., Virginia; William Specht, D., West Virginia; Perry, D., Rhode Island; Ross Hopkins, D., Ontario, Canada; Marie Morse, Historian and Treasurer, Connecticut; Norman Sharp, D., New York; Wilson, Secretary, New Jersey; F. Fulgham, D., Virginia. In attendance were 19 members and their families.

President Powers opened the floor to motions and Holmes moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. A lot of discussion took place on the matter and it was concluded by Rigby from Massachusetts who pointed out Article 10 of the By Laws which states "that three (3) members shall be picked by the President to audit the Treasurer's Report and then report on such audit at the Annual Meeting in August." The three (3) members chosen were: Art Holmes, Committee Head, Rivhall S. Perry, Rhode Island and Frank Fulgham, Virginia.

1. A motion from Dr. Caron, Maryland, "It is the intention of the E.A.S. Executive Committee that Conference expenses be paid for all guest speakers who are not going to be reimbursed." (Not to exceed \$800.00.)

2. A motion from Dr. Caron, Maryland, "That travel and all Conference expenses be paid for the recipient of the James I. Hambleton Award by the Conference." (Not to exceed a maximum of \$400.00 annually.)

3. A motion by Earl Cochran, P.P., West Virginia, "I move that a conference Management Committee be formed consisting of five (5) people, three (3) of which shall be the Treasurer of E.A.S., the Secretary of E.A.S. and the Chairman of the Life Membership Fund, and two (2) members, which may be appointed annually by the President. The duties of this Committee shall be to aid the President in planning and executing the Annual Meeting of the E.A.S. in the areas of planning and management in which the entire Board of Directors cannot function. This motion passed -- all - yes, 2 - no and the President appointed Frank Fulgham, Virginia and John Jones, Jr., Virginia as the two extras." (Seconded by Art Holmes)

4. A motion by George Rigby, Massachusetts, "That a registration form be put into the Journal long before the Conference and that the Providence or State be on the form." (Passed, all - yes)

5. A collection was taken at the meeting for the Director's Bowl. (\$5.00 each)

6. Motion by Earl Cochran, P.P., West Virginia, "Due to the many problems which have been experienced with the awarding of the Sweepstakes Bowl, I move that the Sweepstakes Bowl be

eliminated from Awards." (Passed)

7. Motion by "That we revise the Honey Show at the Show Committee.

were elected to s and a YES vote wa

8. President Dr. Douglas Gay ar Committee (75-76 appropriate reco Conference.

9. The 19; appointed by Pre Divelbiss, D., Ohio Fulgham, D., Virgin

10. Preside Hitchcock to J.I. Ha Boch 77 - Hitch President Powers a about his annual , promoting honey, et

11. The Sites time. (Dr. Gay, C. Di

12. President next Director's Mee to make firm our C in August, 1976. W



EXTR

eliminated from the schedule of the Annual Awards." (Passed, all - yes)

7. Motion by George Rigby, D., Massachusetts, "That we revise the Rules and Classes of the Annual Honey Show at the Conference. Also, that we have a Show Committee." Dick Corrigan and George Rigby were elected to serve. (Seconded by Ross Hopkins and a YES vote was heard by all.)

8. President Powers appointed Hugh Maclead, Dr. Douglas Gay and Dr. Dewey Caron to the By Laws Committee (75-76) and directed them to prepare appropriate recommendations for next year's Conference.

9. The 1976 Resolutions Committee as appointed by President Powers is as follows: C. Divelbiss, D., Ohio; N. Sharp, D., New York and F. Fulgham, D., Virginia.

10. President Powers appointed John Hitchcock to J.I. Hambleton Committee (Benton 76 - Boch 77 - Hitchcock 78). Point of interest, President Powers asked every director present to tell about his annual crop of honey, how clubs were promoting honey, etc., in their areas.

11. The Sites Committee had no report at this time. (Dr. Gay, C. Divelbiss, and Dr. Caron)

12. President Powers suggested we have our next Director's Meeting around April 2 and 3, 1976, to make firm our Conference prices for Blacksburg in August, 1976. We are trying to make the 22nd

Annual Conference a smooth operation for whoever may attend. As far as things like lodging, pre-registration, meals, proper PA systems, off-campus activities, points of interest in the local area, etc., we will advise later.

Research Committee - Caron, 76; Mraz, 77; and Hopkins, 78.

Life Membership Committee - Maclead, 77, and Holmes, 76.

Walt Wilson, Secretary

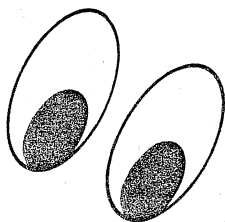
PROFESSOR TO LECTURE AT ESSEX CO. N.J. MEETING

Dr. Robert Berthold, Assistant Professor of Biology at Delaware Valley College, will be the main speaker at the Essex County New Jersey Bee Meeting scheduled for Monday the 15th of March, 1976.

The Beekeepers will meet at 8:00 p.m. in the Public Works Building located at 900 Bloomfield Ave. in Verona, N.J.

The illustrated talk will feature techniques in obtaining and purifying beeswax, followed by a discussion on the uses of beeswax such as candlemaking, etc.

The presentation will include a workshop and demonstration as well as a question and answer period.



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If we try to gather pollen by hand it takes several hundred hours to collect a pound. No wonder it was formerly worth several times its weight in gold!

Today we enlist the services of the honeybee to bring pollen to our traps and capture 60% of her incoming burden. It is estimated that in the U.S. alone a yearly crop of about 160,000,000 pounds is collected by bees, which is about the same as the annual honey production.

At first thought the idea that the yellowish dust in the heart of flowers is edible seems unlikely. To be told that it is the richest food in the animal or vegetable kingdom makes us ready to investigate.

First let us ask "What is Pollen?" Pollen is the male sperm-cell of plants. A single grain of pollen can fertilize the female germ-cell and produce a fruit or an entire tree. This single grain is too small to be seen by the naked eye - .002 of an inch in diameter - half the thickness of a sheet of newspaper - yet carries within itself all the energy needed for the growth of a plant. For millions of years the bees have gathered pollen to use with honey as food for their brood, the larvae of which increase in weight up to 1,500 times in six days.

Scientific research has established the extraordinary nutritive value of pollen and we may accept this as an established part of our knowledge. All the essentials of life are more completely united in pollen than in hardly any other food stuff.

These items have been contributed by doctors, patients, and others using pollen for ailments or deficiencies:

Pollen and appetite. After a few days of use of pollen the appetite begins to improve, because pollen affects metabolism and stimulates all body functions.

Pollen and underweight. Probably because pollen increases metabolism and appetite it helps gain weight where other methods have failed.

Pollen and intestinal troubles. According to Dr. Remy Chauvin pollen cures the worst constipation and improves many diarrhea cases, as well as enteritis and colitis.

Antibiotic pollen. Drs. Chauvin and Lenormand have shown an antibiotic in pollen that stops the spread of microbes, that is salmonella, the cause of typhoids.

Pollen and psychism. Psychosomatic conditions being recognized, pollen treatment restores equilibrium and harmony of body functions,

builds up morale, reduces nervousness and irritability, improves temper and understand of neighbors.

Pollen and neurasthenia. People who exaggerate the least difficulty or contradiction, whose nervous system is imbalanced after a shock or sudden emotion can benefit from the vitamins and amino acids in pollen which help restore harmony to their bodies.

Pollen and general health. Pollen is a rebuilder that gives strength and increased weight to convalescents, a sense of well-being, and increases vitality, initiative and optimism. It banishes fatigue and a dose of 32 grams a day for two weeks brings noticeable change.

Pollen and intellectuals. The mind is rejuvenated and capable of efforts neither coffee nor tobacco can evoke.

Cerebral cases. Pollen from buckwheat contains 17 mgs. per cent of rutino, which acts upon cerebral, reticular, and cardiac hemorrhages.

Pollen and growth. This miracle substance affects growth in man, and acts as a sedative with no ill effects.

-Adapted from the pamphlet Pollen Research.



HONEY QUEEN VISITS DEL. VALLEY COLLEGE

Miss Sharon Jane Burt, the 1975 Pennsylvania Honey Queen was the guest speaker at a recent Apiary Society Meeting held on the campus of Delaware Valley College.

During her presentation and the informal discussion that followed, Miss Burt exchanged stories about her father's honey business and some of the experiences that she has had as a skilled beekeeper.

Miss Burt is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Garner Burt from Benton (Columbia County) Pennsylvania. Sharon is active in 4-H, school and church work.

Sharon will be representing Pennsylvania in the National Honey Queen Contest to be held in Philadelphia as part of the bicentennial celebration of 1776.

The Delaware Valley College Apiary Society is concerned with the study of the science and the art of beekeeping. Members of the Society become involved in many projects related to beekeeping.

Dr. Robert Berthold, Assistant Professor of Biology, is the Club's Advisor.

THE HONEY

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Reports from Eur

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THE WORLD HONEY MARKET

Introduction

Reports from Europe indicate that the average honey consumption is up again after it went down last year due to high shelf prices. The world market recently enjoyed a short-lived flurry when fairly intensive buying set in during December after it was realized that local stocks were not heavy enough to face fall and winter buying. This activity was limited to the production of a few areas in **Central America**. It is suggested that there are considerable unsold stocks left of old-crop honey, particularly in parts of **Mexico** such as Yucatan and in **Argentina**. One source believes as much as 12,000 tons remain unsold in Mexico. In reality, it is difficult to judge the actual carryover, but it should be substantial. In Argentina the remaining old crop has been estimated to be as much as 8,000 tons, although it is felt that this honey can be sold eventually.

Although **Argentina** and **Brazil** have been plagued by drought, some sources in **Salvador, Guatemala** and **Costa Rica** expect an early and good honey season. Offerings are made for new-crop honey, January and later, at about 29 cents a pound.

The minimum **Australian** export prices are unchanged for amber, medium amber, pale amber and light amber. The average price is about 28½ cents per pound f.o.b. Australian port, according to the Australian honey board.

The Australian Government Trade Commissioner in London reports that the honey business in the **United Kingdom** market is quiet. Imports from January to and including August, 1975 were 12,120 tons, of which Australia with 3,219 pounds, was the principal supplier.

New crop **Yucatan** honey is being quoted at from 31 to 33-2/3 cents per pound, although no business is being reported at the higher price. Brazilian sources are also trying to sell honey. They offer 100 ton lots without describing the flower source and the color at about 29 cents a pound f.o.b. **Brazil** for January/February shipment. Little or no buying has been done so far. No reports have been received from **China**. Their normal light amber and extra light amber is not being offered at the present time and no recent business has been conducted.

Mexico

Reporters are giving us an overall impression of a rather light crop in Mexico as some honeyflows get underway. Bees are wintering quite well in most areas, but honey plants have been hurt to a certain degree by a lack of moisture.

The general impression among Mexican beekeepers is that the prices being offered for honey are too low. As a result, many beekeepers have been holding on to honey waiting for better prices.

European packers have gone from a period of heavy stores to a period of light stores and are now

beginning to quote better prices for Mexican honey.

A few European prices offered are as follows: U.S. 33½ cents a pound f.o.b. port for Guadalajaran honey, 31¼ cents a pound f.o.b. port for Highland light amber and 32¼ cents a pound f.o.b. source for Highland extra light amber. A more recent quote gave a price of 34½ cents a pound f.o.b. Tampico for top quality Guadalajaran honey in drums. This quote came from Hamburg.

Prices f.o.b. Mexicali are higher since freight to the border is higher than to the port. Mexicali is the logical border point for honeys going to California. The higher prices quoted for California are 35 cents a pound for Guadalajaran honey, 34 cents a pound for extra light amber and 33 cents a pound for light amber. All prices are f.o.b. Mexicali.

Honey is moving well to both the United States and Europe.

Argentina

Drought -- This word sums up the main concern of Argentine beekeepers presently. Winter and spring were favorable in all honey producing areas, but for the last two months there have been practically no rains. This dry spell is seriously affecting harvesting prospects and some sources are predicting that the total Argentine crop might not be larger than 12,000 to 15,000 tons.

Due to the dryness and heat, honey plants have wilted or died in some of the main white-honey producing areas of the country. Colonies are killing off their drones and spending the day carrying water to the hives to maintain the necessary humidity inside the colony. Rain could salvage the tail end of the main flow, but it will have to come soon.

Almost 10 percent of last year's crop remains on hand unsold. However, moderate trading has continued to Japan, the United States and Europe. It is said that some beekeepers are waiting for better prices. The smothering inflation almost every week causes a devaluation of the Argentine Peso in relation to the U.S. dollar value. This results in superficial rises in the price of honey.

As of October 30, 16,664.6 tons of honey were exported compared to 10,979.7 tons in October of 1974. Of the 16,664.6 tons, Japan imported 6,734.9, United States -- 4,477.9 and West Germany -- 3,820.5 tons.

El Salvador

So far this season the honey crop has been better than the last six or seven years. For example, beekeepers who over the last few years have received 10 to 20 barrels from the morning glory flow, this year obtained 50 to 60 barrels on the same flow. This particular flow has produced much excellent water white honey. Beekeepers are hoping that the rest of the season will be this good. At this point, crop prospects look favorable. A few foreign offers for new crop honey have already been made.

Chile

In the months of September, October and

November Chile had too much rain and not enough warm, sunny weather. These adverse weather conditions especially in Southern Chile seriously delayed colony build up. Nosema also has been a problem for some beekeepers. At the beginning of spring, honey plants were in good condition. Currently, domestic retail honey is selling at between (Chilean) \$7.50 and \$10 in kilo containers. At the domestic wholesale level honey is selling from (Chilean) \$4 to \$6. No export quotes were available this month.

India

In the south unusually heavy monsoons have seriously affected honey production. More than 50 per cent of the colonies in this area have been lost as a result of the monsoons. Beekeepers are trying to recover their losses in time for the main honeyflow now that the rains have subsided. Retail honey prices have increased substantially in southern areas and this has caused a general increase in the packed honey market throughout India.

Ethiopia

Some of the Ethiopian lowlands are still under drought conditions, although the major honey producing areas and the highlands have not been affected. Rainfall and other general climatic conditions have been favorable thus far for a surplus honey crop. Though the new honey crop has not as yet entered the market, it is anticipated that this good quality honey will soon flood the market, it is anticipated that this good quality honey will soon flood the market. However, at this time prices are still (between E \$3 to 5 per kilo depending on quality). A significant amount of old-crop honey remains in the beekeepers' hands. The market for beeswax is steady. The major customers for Ethiopian beeswax are America and Japan.

Rhodesia

The crop thus far is good in Rhodesia with only fair prospects for the remainder of the season because of a lack of rainfall. One domestic price quoted was (Rhodesian) 80 cents per 500 grams. Very little or none of last year's crop remains in the producers' hands. Practically all of Rhodesia's honey is consumed domestically.

Canada

Imports from Argentina are augmenting packers' supplies in several provinces. In Alberta and Manitoba very little honey remains in beekeepers' hands unsold. However, in Saskatchewan and a few other provinces some honey is still available. White honey is reportedly selling at about 43 cents a pound.

Wholesale bulk honey prices are a little higher in Quebec with white honey prices in the 45 to 50 cent range. Beekeepers started out with an increase in colonies during 1975, but due to colony losses (a good many caused by bears) they ended the season with about the same number as in 1974. Until honey crops start improving and inflation tones

down, indications are that commercial production might drop off in Quebec and some other provinces. This decrease is forecast despite the increased hobbyist interest in these areas. Beekeepers in Quebec are still holding perhaps 10 to 15 per cent of the 1975 crop.

Over most of Canada the wholesale market is average for this time of year. The retail movement of honey has remained strong in all provinces with the average price of a 1-pound container of honey bringing around 95 cents to \$1.10. As of early January the winter had been mild and bees seem to be wintering normally. Colony stores are mostly adequate. There seems to be a fair increase in the total number of colonies going into winter. It is estimated that about 4 to 5 million pounds of honey are left in the producer's hand throughout Canada.

United States

Over most of the Northeast winter storms were quite heavy in January. However, at this point beekeepers are not sure if the harsh weather has affected colonies significantly. Estimates of projected colony increases in 1976 are varying from 2 to 5 per cent. With very little honey left in the beekeepers' hands, the wholesale market is inactive. Retail sales are holding up well, however.

Beekeepers in the Midwest have complained of too much warm weather for normal wintering. No real colony increases are expected for 1976 at present. The wholesale market is average. Little honey is left unsold in the producers' hands. Retail demand is from average to strong. One-pound containers of honey are selling between \$1.00 and \$1.25. At this time, package bee and queen production looks good for 1976.

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In the **Southeast** unusually cold weather has hit the area on several occasions lately. Florida citrus producers received a big scare in early January when a cold front moved into their area causing below freezing temperatures for a short time. It is not known yet if any serious damage to the crop occurred. Soil moisture conditions are from fair to poor in Florida and good in Georgia. Citrus flow prospects are good thus far. Perhaps 10 to 20 per cent of last year's crop remains unsold in the beekeepers' hands. Wholesale and retail prices are mostly unchanged from last month.

Most **Southwestern** sources report a rather slow wholesale market with very little honey remaining unsold. Retail sales are from average to strong with 1-pound containers selling between 95 cents and \$1.10. Northeastern Texas is dry, while Southeastern Texas has had fairly normal soil moisture. Oklahoma also needs more rain. In Arkansas bees are wintering well and package bee prospects look good. Present estimates are for a 5 per cent overall colony increase in 1976.

The wholesale market is varying from average to weak throughout most of the **East Central** area and anywhere from 0 to 20 per cent of the crop remains unsold. Prices are ranging from 43 to 50 for white and 40 to 48 cents for amber. Retail sales are average to strong with prices varying from 99 cents to \$1.09 for 1-pound containers of honey. At this

time, only scattered colony increases are predicted for 1976. Some states have had too much warm weather, while others are predicting short stores this spring because of the long summer. Soil moisture estimates are varying greatly from one state to another.

The wholesale market in the **West Central** area is average to good with white honey selling between 43 and 48 cents and amber between 42 and 45 cents. Estimates on unsold honey stocks seemed to vary greatly from one state to another with Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas reporting the largest unsold stocks. The retail market is from average to strong. One-pound honey containers are selling between 93 cents and \$1.09. Moisture is said to be fair in Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa and poor in Nebraska. Bees are wintering normally with states such as Kansas reporting mild weather. South Dakota, however, has had some very cold temperatures and quite a bit of snow lately.

Colony counts in the **Intermountain** area are not expected to increase significantly in 1976. Moisture conditions to date are poor in Utah, good in Wyoming and fair in other states. The wholesale market is fair with prices unchanged from last month. Retail sales are fair. Perhaps 10 to 20 per cent of last year's crop remains unsold. Colony counts may go up by as much as 5 per cent in 1976. In the **Far West** bees are generally wintering

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well. However, in California some correspondents feel a lot of feeding will be necessary this spring to prevent starvation. More moisture is needed in California where conditions are extremely dry. In general, the wholesale market is slow, but has shown some improvement. U.S. packers are said to be buying Argentine honey at 40½ cents delivered and duty paid on the west coast. Domestic wholesale prices are mostly unchanged from last month. About 40,000 colonies were brought in from Washington alone this year for almond pollination in California. The many benefits of almond pollination to both the beekeeper and grower are expected to encourage more and more use of colonies for this purpose every year. Rental fees for almond pollination are varying from as little as \$6 to \$9 in Butte County to as high as \$12 to \$15 in South Orange County. Package bee and queen prospects look excellent for 1976 with most producers booked solid. In Washington very little honey remains on hand unsold.

SOCIAL ORDER IN BEES

From the department of entomology at Ithaca, New York set forth by Roger A. Morse, comes some interesting revelations concerning some social activities of the honeybee.

There may be as many as 50,000 worker bees in a honeybee colony. They guard the hive, gather and store the food, control the hive temperature and humidity, rear the young, control the production and number of males collectively determine when the Monarch, the queen, should be replaced or the colony should swarm (divide). A normal colony has only one queen; males may or may not be present and are not necessary in the maintenance of social order.

The certain actions by social insects might be regulated by hormone-like substances was

promulgated in Germany in 1940. In 1959 the work "pheromone" was proposed for these materials. The term was wisely accepted immediately and research has proven their existence. Pheromones are chemical substances that are secreted to the outside of an animal's body to elicit a specific response to a receiving animal of the same species. Most pheromones act as odors.

ALARM ODORS: The easiest of the honeybee pheromones to demonstrate and understand are the alarm odors. Alarm odors, for any animal, must have certain characteristics; they must act rapidly, be specific and fade immediately after the danger is past. In the honeybee communication system an alarm odor must be as the word "HELP" in our language.

If a worker bee is attacked, or detects an enemy, she protrudes her sting. At the base of her sting is a gland that produces a sweet smelling substance reminiscent of banana oil. It is isopentyl acetate, a relatively common chemical and the principal honeybee alarm odor. To demonstrate the action of isopentyl acetate one may place a drop on a piece of leather or felt at the hive entrance and the bees within the hive will attack the inanimate object as though it were a marauding bear or human.

Only recently it has been discovered that worker honeybees can distinguish between their own and a foreign queen. This is the first time that kinship recognition has been demonstrated in an insect. While it is not known how honeybees distinguish between their own and a foreign queen it is known that once the identification is made the foreign queen is marked with an alarm substance. When honeybees recognize their own queen they expose their scent glands, thus labeling her as their own and attracting more bees to her. Only worker bees have scent glands.

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