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BEE READY

By Dale K. Pollet:
Professor-Dept. of Entomology

74th Edition
November 2005

Well, the year is about over and some say, thank God, we're still here! It's been an exhausting year with all that has happened. We have the African honeybee in three parishes; we had hot, dry weather that reduced the honey crop; the price of honey went down; and we had not one but two hurricanes that tried to blow us all away or drown us. Many hives were lost, not to mention all the homes and agricultural crops, and the many friends who were either lost in the storms or moved away to try to recover from losing everything. In all the confusion and despair, we have had a lot of friends, neighbors, and even strangers come to our aid and try to help us get back on our feet. It will take a lot of time and effort to get it together, but with everyone pitching in, we will continue.

Let's begin by getting together for the state beekeepers' meeting next month in Lafayette. The program and information are listed below. There are many of us who are not members of a club that would like to join, so the local clubs and their presidents are listed below as well. The state beekeepers association and its' officers and board members are also listed. They would like to hear from you about situations dealing with bees or areas you think need to be addressed to promote the industry in the state. Call the one in your area and get to know other beekeepers and what's going on with them and their hives. This is a good way to pick up some good information about honey sources, problems, management ideas, marketing, and new techniques to make a better honey crop.

Information on the movement of the African honeybees can be found on the LSU website, lsuagcenter.net, under environment and natural resources, then, insects and related arthropods under bees and wasps.

Remember to register your hives. This helps to provide us with assistance when needed or helps to warn us about problems in our area.

CONTEST RESULTS:

The results of the state fair honey competition are as follows. Congratulations to the winner and better luck to the runners up. Those of you who did not enter remember, you cannot win unless you enter.

Light Honey:

1. Oleta Brown – Bienville
2. Vince Brown – Bienville
3. Dwight Collier – Bossier
4. Tom Snellgrove – Bossier
5. Billy Hummer – Bossier

Amber Honey:

1. Brenda Brown/Pam Ferris – East Baton Rouge
2. Charlie Moreau – St. Landry
3. Billy Hummer – Bossier
4. Tom Love – East Baton Rouge
5. Oleta Brown – Bienville

Dark Honey:

1. Tommy Ortis – East Baton Rouge
2. Charlie Tullos – East Baton Rouge
3. Julie Tullos – East Baton Rouge

LOUISIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION



The 44th Louisiana Beekeepers Association Convention will be held Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 3rd at the Best Western Hotel Acadiana and Conference Center, 1801 West Pinhook Road, Lafayette, LA 70508. Anyone interested in beekeeping is invited to join us for the latest information on beekeeping basics, honey bee research, pest management, etc. There will be something for everyone from beginner to lifetime beekeeper, so join us in Lafayette. We plan to have a honey of a good time.



A block of rooms will be held for our group at a special rate of \$64.00 plus tax. Please call the hotel at 337/233-8120 or 800/826-8386 to make your reservation. **Remember to mention the LBA Convention to get the special rate and, please, make your reservations early as November 15, 2005 is the cut-off date.** A \$10.00 registration fee is required. For additional information, you may contact Billy Hummer at 318/742-3541, Sharon Hebert at 337/937-6722, or Jimmy Dunkley at 225/952-8100.

Honey Baked Items: Honey baked items are enjoyed each year at our annual Convention thanks to donations provided by LBA members and the memberships of local clubs. If you are interested in providing a honey baked item, please bring it to the Lafayette meeting. Your assistance in this area is always appreciated.

Tentative Convention Agenda:

<p>Friday, December 2nd - 8:00 am Registration Begins</p> <p>8:30 am Call to Order and Welcome - Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Committee Appointments, etc.</p> <p>8:45 am President's Address - William Hummer</p> <p>9:00 am Current Research at the Baton Rouge Bee Lab - USDA/ARS Staff</p> <p>10:00 am Break & Yak Time</p> <p>10:30 am Africanized Honey Bees - Dr. Jose Villa</p> <p>11:15 am State Response to AHB - Jimmy Dunkley</p> <p>12:00 Noon Lunch</p> <p>1:30 pm Current Research at the Baton Rouge Bee Lab - USDA/ARS Staff</p> <p>2:30 pm SHB Beetle Control - David Westervelt</p> <p>3:00 pm National Industry Report - Hubert Tubbs</p> <p>3:30 pm Break & Yak Time</p> <p>4:00 pm Emergency Response to Bee Calls - Jeff Smith</p> <p>4:20 pm The Model Bee Ordinance - Billy Hummer</p> <p>4:20 pm Apiary Regulation Changes - Jimmy Dunkley</p> <p>7:00 pm Banquet and Program</p>	<p>Saturday, December 3rd - 8:00 am Registration Continues</p> <p>8:30 am Beekeeper Profile - Jimmy Dunkley</p> <p>9:00 am Hobby Beekeeping Businesses - Margaret Prell</p> <p>9:30 am Collecting Swarms - Bobby Frierson</p> <p>10:00 am Break & Yak Time</p> <p>10:30 am Florida Beekeeping - David Westervelt</p> <p>11:00 am Beeswax - ?</p> <p>11:30 am Roundtable - Select LBA Board Members</p> <p>12:00 Noon Lunch</p> <p>1:00 pm State Association Business Meeting</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) Secretary's Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) Treasurer's Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(3) Committee Reports</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(4) Election of Officers</p> <p>2:30 pm Adjourn & LBA Board of Directors Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  <i>Join us in Lafayette!</i>  </p>
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LEARNING TO LIVE WITH SMALL HIVE BEETLE David Westervelt, Fl. Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services

The small hive beetle (SHB) was probably introduced into the United States in the early 1990's. It was first found in South Carolina and northern Georgia in November 1996 but was not correctly identified until 1998 when it was found in Florida. By that time it had become a huge problem for Florida beekeepers, causing many to go out of business. Although the initial impact on beekeepers colonies was a devastating blow, Florida beekeepers have had time to change the way they manage their colonies, extract their honey, and store their equipment.

The biggest thing that we have learned since the SHB was discovered in this country is that U. S. beekeepers must change their beekeeping practices. Beekeepers in South Africa know that it is important that they maintain strong colonies and deny the beetles a nutrition source. They know to only pull enough honey to extract within a 24 hour period or less. They also know they must keep the honey house very clean at all times.

Weak and dead colonies in the bee yard, prolonged storage of wax cappings before processing, combs left in the honey house to long, and moving honey combs containing brood into the honey house for extraction are just a few of the things that had never alarmed beekeepers in the United States prior to the beetles arrival. These practices now represented a nutrition source for the SHB and must be avoided.

SOME THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE SMALL HIVE BEETLE

1. They are very good flyers
2. They have well developed pheromone receptors
3. They can live outside hives on pollen or rotting fruits
4. They can reproduce on rotting fruit
5. They can live over 1 year in captivity
6. One female beetle can lay 300 to 500 eggs a day for 30 to 60 days
7. Beetles attract other beetles
8. They like hives in the shade over hives in full sun
9. They are attracted to the stress pheromones of a hive
10. They use bee hives for food, warmth, and to avoid exposure to the weather
11. Nurse bees will feed the SHB in the cell just like it feeds a bee
12. EHB's don't harass them as much as AHB's
13. They can overwinter in bee hives at - 40° F
14. Strong hives keep them in check most of the time
15. They reproduce in the north only in summer when the ground is warm but can reproduce in hot rooms
16. They reproduce in spring or summer in weak hives
17. They keep warm in the fall in strong hives
18. If eggs hatch and larva slime hives, bees abscond
19. They can't survive cold outside the hive 68° F
20. They can fly in the cold 32° F they have to be

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN THE BEE YARD

1. Keep hives strong, don't maintain weak hives
2. Keep hives in full sun
3. Don't let dead-outs stay in the bee yard
4. Check yards every 2 weeks, the ground around dead-outs should be treated (2' X 2' area)
5. Move bees every 3 to 4 months (no permanent yards)
6. Yards containing a lot of SHB should be moved
7. Do not make splits in a heavily infested yard
8. Do not pull honey from a heavily infested yard
9. Don't store a lot of empty supper on hives
10. Do not allow bees to start robbing in a yard
11. Spot treat with West traps plus oil, diatomaceous earth, or Checkmite+ under single-sided cardboard or plastic squares.
12. Keep bottom boards clean and free of wax stools
13. Screen bottoms help keep the SHB off the bottom boards but causes them to move up in the hive
14. You can physically remove a lot of adult beetles from a hive. Place a top on the ground, stacking your supers on it 3 or 4 high. Once you have checked the brood chamber you can restack the supers on the brood chamber, finding that most of the SHB's in the hive were driven down by the sunlight. You can then kill them by dumping them in a 5gal bucket of soapy water
15. A good fall treatment may prevent SHB from overwintering in the hive.
16. Don't forget to treat for Varroa mites and American foulbrood too keep SHB populations down.

HURRICANE'S KATRINA AND RITA

Jimmy Dunkley, La. Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry

Hurricane Katrina disrupted many lives in several southern states in late August. The storm that everyone feared hit the mouth of the Mississippi River and destroyed much in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. What was not lost by hurricane winds was swept under by flood water. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes and their jobs, and some lost their lives. What has transpired in the aftermath of the storm was worst than the actual storm, however, as survival was day to day and disorder was the norm rather than the exception. Government failures were many but it became necessary to attend to the needs of the survivors.

Regardless of the long term rebuilding process and a return to normalcy, be thankful for the overwhelming amount of assistance provided by volunteers from all over our great nation. Be thankful as well for our military. The leadership, equipment, and personnel that they provided was absolutely necessary to restore order, and to distribute food and water.

Several areas were taken over by the military and became staging areas for food and water distribution. I was lucky enough to be assigned to a food distribution center in Westwego, Louisiana on the west bank of Jefferson parish. My unit was mostly manned by native American firefighters under the leadership of the U. S. Forestry Service. Over a ten day period they provided food, water and ice to over 2700 cars per day. This task was taken over by the Pennsylvania national guard in relief of Louisiana guard units stationed in Alexandria and Belle Chase. Be proud of our young men and women in the guard. They worked tirelessly on our behalf.

Once we started to recover from Katrina, Rita hit in southwest Louisiana. Coastal communities were swept away or still lie beneath flood waters. The loss of life was avoided for many as much of the areas population evacuated the area in the wake of Katrina's devastation. Recovery efforts continue! Help if you can but please, take time to think of friends and neighbors in this awful time. The next time it may be you that needs the help.

HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORT

Hurricane Katrina has left parts of the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama in rubble; and, as the world watched this tragedy unfold; another hurricane, Rita plowed through East Texas and western Louisiana adding to the toil and despair that Katrina had dealt to the citizens of the Gulf Coast. Of all, it is feared that Louisiana has been hit the hardest. Reports of damages are still incoming as power and communication lines are being re-established; however, one reliable source gave notice that one beekeeper in Louisiana alone had lost 1500 hives to Rita. We have not yet been able to receive reports from East Texas.

The full scope of this double disaster is still unraveling; it is realized that many hobbyist and commercial operations have had severe losses. A report from Mississippi noted that at least three hobby beekeepers have lost their homes and their bees due to the surge. There are reports of trees and hives blown over as far as 200 miles inland. In Alabama, some of the worst cases are reports of hives being hit by Katrina and washed away by the storm surge. Other hives were killed when the winds knocked off lids or turned over hives and then 8 to 10 inches of rain literally drowned the bees. Outyards were difficult to access as many roads were filled with debris and downed trees, other roads have been left impassable or washed away by the floodwaters. It will be months before the true amount of damage can be fully assessed. The loss of hives and resources due to these two hurricanes will affect the beekeeping industry for quite some time.

You can help! You can send your donation by money order, international money order, or check payable to the state organization of your choice through the mail to the address given below. In about a year an accounting of the donations and the resulting efforts of each state organization will be published in this periodical.

LOUISIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Mr. William Hummer, President
287 Sligo Road
Bossier City, Louisiana 71112
Phone 318/742-3541

Thank you for your kindness and your generosity.

**LOUISIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC.
OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2005**

PRESIDENT William "Billy" Hummer 287 Sligo Road Bossier City, La 71112 Ph. 318/742-3541	VICE PRESIDENT Charlie Harper 421 Louveteau Rd. Carencro, La 70520 Ph. 337/896-5247	SECRETARY Donald Sorrells Rt. 1 Box 339 Shreveport, La 71115 Ph. 318/797-8370	TREASURER Tommy Kemp 3144 Lantz Road Jennings, La 70546 Ph. 337/824-1984
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PLEASE CONTACT THE CLOSEST LBA OFFICER OR BOARD MEMBER FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR STATE BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION.

LOCAL BEEKEEPING CLUBS AND CURRENT PRESIDENTS

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LOCAL BEEKEEPING CLUBS PROVIDE A VALUABLE RESOURCE TO AREA BEEKEEPERS.
PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS LISTED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Sincerely, Dale Pollet