



Fall 2004 **Empire State Honey Producers Association** Issue No. 78

*A Statewide Organization to Promote and Protect Interests of New York State Beekeepers*

Edited by Aaron Morris, PO Box 246, Round Lake, New York 12151 email: amorris@uamail.albany.edu

### Come and Join us at our Fall 2004 Meeting

The meeting will be held November 12 & 13, 2004 at the Treadway Inn and Conference Center (<http://www.owegotreadway.com/>) in Owego, New York. Owego, New York is located near the Pennsylvania border, and we would like to invite beekeepers from neighboring Pennsylvania and New Jersey to attend

ESHPA has reserved a block of rooms at \$69.95 a night plus 11.2% tax (single or double) at the Treadway Inn, please call the hotel at (607) 687-4500 to make your reservations. Be sure to mention you are attending ESHPA fall meeting to get the discounted room rate. **Hotel reservations must be made by October 11, 2004 to receive the group rate**

Pre-registration is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members. On site registration is \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. We strongly encourage pre-registration. **The dead line for pre-registration is November 6, 2004**

**Hotel reservations for the Fall Meeting **MUST** be made by October 11, 2004 to receive the group rate!**

### On the Inside:

The President's Corner	Page 2
State Fair Report	Page 3
Approved Minutes, Spring Mtg.	Page 4
Draft Minutes, Summer Mtg. & ESHPA on the web!	Page 5
Finances	Page 6
Digitization EF Phillips Library	Page 7
ABF, NHB Reports	Page 8
AFB, Irradiation and AHPA Report	Page 9
The Spectator on Bears	Page 10
Special Use Permit for Formic	Page 11
Oxalic Acid, Coming Attractions, and a song	Page 12
Fall Meeting Honey Competition	Page 13
AIAC Report, Preliminary Program for Fall Mtg.	Page 14
Directions and Registration Form	Page 15

## The President's Corner

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

This has been an exciting summer in the bee yards. I lost more bees in April than I had lost all winter! By May, my clusters were down to 1/3 of what I had seen in



March. The blizzard that came through about April 26<sup>th</sup> did in all those that had broken cluster. Nucs and splits soon became the order of the day.

Unfortunately, my last "President's Corner" came up short. Part of it was lost in printing. The article described how "Dr. Basil Furgala from Minnesota, wintered 500 hives, give or take, as 3 deeps high. In spring he bought queens and made enough splits to run 1000 hives all summer." What should have followed: "During the splits the old queens were reduced to 2 deeps with supers on top. At harvest time all 2 deep hives were blown out, and extracted. The deeps were stored for next spring's splits. This way he wintered with only new queens." The key here is that new queens were 3 high and old queens are two high. Even I can tell at a glance, which are the old queens.

An exciting part of our summer picnic was voting money to help digitize some of Dr. E.F. Phillips' beekeeping library. I was too late to meet Dr. Phillips, but in 1953 I did meet Mrs. Phillips. I hope some day I can help get her children's books digitized.

I want to apologize for our summer picnic guest speaker. We wanted a cheap speaker so we could spend our limited funds on digitization. Gerry Stevens came in. I had a good excuse to leave. I consider Mr. Stevens one of the grand old beekeepers of our time. Our Apiary Inspection Program of today was built on his leadership (with help from Mr. Gould). It was a mighty tough sell but I did coerce him to reduce out inspection work week from 48 to 40 hours. Many thanks Gerry!

I have rambled on and this was not what I had planned to write. It's the thoughts and words God provided this morning.

I would be remiss if I did not tell you about my new hot room. Mine had long since been way too small. Three years ago I started a plan to expand. When finalized the room is 10' X 12' and will hold 100 supers easily. I have a big dehumidifier, two six blade ceiling fans and radiant heat, thermostatically controlled in the floor (hot water system with antifreeze). I have more than 2 inches of insulation in the walls and ceiling. It's a dream come true! I take one to two gallons of water out of the dehumidifier daily. The honey rolls out 5 supers at a time on a spring loaded cat at 85°. Thanks to the Farm Bureau and my Grainger discount I was able to get many of my parts at a significant savings, which will pay for my Farm Bureau dues for the next 2-3 years.

I want to say a big "Thank You" to Dr. Nick Calderone, Rick Zimmerman, NYS Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and Bob Mungari for all their help and effort in obtaining formic acid for our use again, in the form of Mite-Away II pads. As one producer who sells his honey through organic foods, it sure is good to have a legal way to keep my honey pure and not contaminated by poison.

Many thanks,  
Bee C N Ya,  
Bill

## Empire State Honey Producers Association

### Officers and Directors

**WILLIAM CROWELL, President**  
7677 Kriswood Drive  
Rome, NY 13440-6336  
(315) 337-2281

**LLOYD SPEAR,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**  
1309 Rugby Road  
Schenectady, NY 12308  
518-370-4989

**JOAN-ANN HOWLAND,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.**  
Main Street  
Berkshire, NY 13736  
(607) 657 2517

**DEBORAH KALICIN  
Secretary/Treasurer**  
273 Randall Road  
Lisbon, NY 13658  
(315) 322-4208

**THOR ERIKSEN, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
26 Half Moon Pond Road  
Ridge, NY 11961  
(631) 924-3263

**AARON MORRIS,  
Newsletter Editor**  
PO Box 246  
Round Lake, NY 12151-0246

### Directors:

**PETER F. BIZZOSO, Chairperson**  
**JUDY DOAN (Western Region)**  
**TED ELK (Northern Region)**  
**BRUCE FIEGEL (Western Region)**  
**DAVE HOWLAND (Southern Region)**  
**GREG KALICIN (Northern Region)**  
**RAY LACKEY (Long Island)**

(631) 874-4750  
(585) 964-3121  
(315) 629-2914  
(716) 759-3612  
(607) 657 2517  
(315) 322-4208  
(631) 567-1936

## State Fair Report

By Earl Villecco

This year was our 5th year selling honey products at the bee booth.



Although sales were lower than previous years, a lot of product was sold. Approximately \$7900 worth of product was sold compared to \$8400 in sales last year. After expenses are deducted, (we're still waiting for some bills to come in) we should net approximately \$2700.

Net profit for 2003 reported in the spring newsletter was \$500, when in reality the corrected net should have been \$3000. The reason for the discrepancy; Jim Schuyler was paid the \$500 for his outstanding work for the association at the bee booth, after report was published.

952 lbs of liquid honey, 263 pieces of cut comb honey, and 240 jars of creamed honey, and 25 pairs of candles were sold. This compares to 1508 lbs of liquid honey, 378 pieces of comb honey, and 254 jars of creamed honey sold last year.

Factors affecting sales were; we didn't have some producers providing honey this year that provided honey last year. Seven producers supplied honey this year compared to nine last year. This was a strange year as you know. They didn't have any honey for the bee booth; comb honey production also was way down. Although we sold as much creamed honey as last year, more could have been sold if we had it. We did sell candles this year for the first time in 2 years.

People were also looking for more varietal honeys. We had plenty of clover honey. Comments often made were: we can buy clover honey at the grocery store! We need more varietal honeys! For example bamboo, wildflower, fall flower (goldenrod), etc. Those honeys are hard to find at the grocery store.

I want to thank all 41 volunteers on behalf of the association who sacrificed their valuable time to spend considerable time working at the bee booth and in the gazebo. Several spent several different days working at the booth. Once again there are too many to include their names in this report.



Many thanks to Chuck and Karen Kutik, and Richard and Amy Wakefield for donating honey once again as they have done every year since we started selling honey.

I want to thank the people who provided bees on behalf of the association for the observation hive and the gazebo. They are Dave and Joan Howland, Paul Cappy, and Richard Linck.

The honey show had very few entries again as in the past. Unfortunately, I was unable to get the names of the winners for this year's competition. I want to thank once again Nicholas Calderone for taking his valuable time to drive to Syracuse and judge the honey show.

Thanks again on behalf of the association to John Ferguson who sent out the notices asking for volunteers, Joe and Liz Rowland, Jim and Judy Schuyler who helped set up and dismantle the booth for another great year!

Finally, thank you Jim for your dedication overseeing the staffing, ordering supplies, and handling the money once again as you have done in the past!

Earl Villecco - State Fair Committee rep.



These minutes were approved at the summer meeting

## Minutes of the ESHPA Spring Board Meeting 4/17/2004

Meeting Called to Order at 9:04 AM by President Bill Crowell

Members Present: Bill Crowell, Raymond Lackey, Lloyd Spears, Mark Rulison, Greg Kalicin, Deb Kalicin, Ted Elk by proxy, and Aaron Morris, News letter editor.

There was discussion to keep Apiary Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) in the news letter. There are letters to be written to our state Representatives William Magee, Sheldon Silver, Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann, Joseph L. Bruno to keep the funding and to encourage the membership at large to so also.

Upcoming meetings: The Summer meeting will be at Dyce Labs Saturday July 24, 2004. The board meeting from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM and the regular meeting to start at 10:30 AM. Aaron will email Nick and cc. Joe and Liz to see if Nick needs help. Suggestions were Earl or Joe to help. Mark made the motion, Lloyd seconded, all in favor.

The Fall Meeting is going to be in Owego either NOV 5-6<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> depending on the hotel's availability. Mark made the motion; Greg seconded it, all in favor. Lloyd volunteered to help Joann if she needs it to find the speakers for the fall meeting. Two names mentioned as suggestions were Alison Skinner of the Ontario Tech Team, and Mary Frasier. Mark brought up the fact of bio terrorism and maybe we can get the ABF to give assistance in what beekeepers need to do.

Mark suggested that we get someone to talk about the new regulations to combat bio-terrorism. Maybe we could contact ABF for help on this subject.

Ray Lackey will call Thor about this year's State Fair assignments. The fair coordinator at the Fair is to be paid \$500 dollars. Ray made the motion, and Mark seconded it. Passed by all.

Ray made the motion that the Secretary/Treasurer is authorized to split \$500 among those that took Jim's place or to Jim if he actually took care of the Fair in 2003.

The prices for the honey sold at the state Fair will be decided upon at the summer meeting.

Financial record retention for the association is the

normal 5 years. Lloyd has volunteered to Audit the books.

Greg made the motion to send AHPA \$250.00 Lloyd seconded, and all in favor.

Ray made the recommendations that to the bylaws be added: That the President can appoint a member at large to the Board. Lloyd seconded it and all passed it. Also that the recommended changes by the committee on the bylaws be made by the summer meeting.

Aaron mentioned that he needs anything for the news letters by April 15 and September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Pride of New York mentioned and questioned about belonging. Lloyd going to call Senator Hoffman and report at the summer meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 made by Ray and seconded by Greg and all in favor

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Kalicin, Secretary/ Treasurer



Natural Candle Company Seeks  
lemon to golden yellow Beeswax from cappings.  
We will buy it from you!

Please contact David:  
phone: (607)589-7375  
email: David@sunbeamcandles.com

**Minutes of ESHPA Summer  
Membership Meeting  
July 24, 2004**

Draft Minutes for  
review and acceptance  
at the fall meeting

President Bill Crowell called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. He told the membership about the importance of government funding. He asked that each member contact their state representatives to continue to get research funding for Dyce Labs. Farm Bureau is behind us with support. He also mentioned that the board feels the legislative committee needs to be re-established. The committee is to be no larger than five members. Names to be selected from are: Joe Rowland, John Ryan, Ted Elk, Lloyd Spear, Aaron Morris, Jim Rulison, and Jim Doan.

He also mentioned to the membership at large that the board has voted to have the HSBC checking account as the sole checking account for the association and that The State Fair Account and the Alternatives Credit Union accounts closed. The CD accounts will be moved when they become due in November 2005 to avoid penalty.

John Ferguson talked about the State fair and volunteers are needed to man the booth for the duration of the Fair. Joann Howland volunteer to donate one observation for the first week and Richard Linck donating one for the second week. Paul Cappy will donate one single hive for the gazebo the first week and Richard Linck the second week.

Any member with suggestions of speakers at the Fall meeting are to contact Deborah Kalicin or Bill Crowell.

President Bill Crowell suggest that each member read the article in Bee Culture July 2004 on liability for apiary employees and that we are going to get a form for members to protect them from lawsuits.

A discussion about a Website was brought to the members and Vince Cappola was mentioned as one who knows about them.

Nick Calderone spoke on miticides, thymol OK, Miteaway II not recommended and formic has no approval. Sucracide does not seem to work. Apililife Var a 3 step application with one tablet every ten days after brood rearing is over works better.

AIAC (Apiary Industry Advisory Committee) will be meeting in November.

EAS Conference is Aug 9-13<sup>th</sup> in Seven Springs, PA. And is a good show that members should attend. Many think it is becoming too expensive. Richard Linck made the motion that Aaron be the ESHPA representative. As such he should give a talk on what he finds most beneficial at the November meeting. Ray Lackey made the motion that the Association give Aaron \$100 to help with expenses at EAS. Richard Linck seconded and the membership passed the motion.

Nick Calderone discussed the on going work at Cornell University's Mann Library and a matching grant available for the digitizing of the Library's rare collection of books and field notes. Many of the books are currently not available because of their fragile condition. When digitized they will be available, via the internet, to all

Aaron Morris made the motion that the association give \$250 to Mann Library to help with the digitizing.. It was seconded by Greg Kalicin and passed.

Joe Rowland, Liz Rowland and Nick Calderone were thanked for their work on this meeting.

Ray Lackey made the motion the meeting be adjourned, Nick Calderone seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

**ESHPA on the World Wide Web!**

Thanks to the efforts of Greg Kalicin, The Empire State Honey Producers Association has carved out a bit of space on the World Wide Web! Check out:  
<http://www.eshpa.org>  
Comments are welcome and congratulations are in order.

**!! Great job Greg !!**

## Empire State Honey Producers' Association

### Statement of receipts and expenses 1/1/03 – 12/31/03

#### Receipts

Bank balance on 1/1/03: \$10,232.27

Income category	Details of income	\$
Dues	Annual : 65 @ \$20.00	1,300.00
	Lifetime : 0 @ 300.00	000.00
Funding	State Fair booth (NYS Fair Board)	190.00
Fund-raising	Newsletter advertising	170.00
	State Fair booth sales	8,431.89
Fall Meeting	Registration fees (38)	590.00
	Meal tickets (57 lunch, 58 banquet)	2020.00
	Exhibitor booth	60.00
Other	T-shirts sold: 10 @ \$10	100.00
	Interest on bank accounts	207.54
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,069.43</b>

#### Expenses

Expense category	Details of expense	\$
State Fair	Insurance	85.00
	Product purchase for resale	4,747.00
	Miscellaneous (ribbons, postage, taxes etc.)	419.64
Newsletter	Editorial expense, printing, postage	318.72
Summer meeting	Hall rental, food, postage etc.	563.05
Fall meeting	2 beekeeper of the year special awards	263.00
	Gifts for speakers	645.00
	Banquet speaker	435.00
	Travel expenses, rooms and meals for speakers and special guests	1,951.95
	Honey show expenses	47.39
Other	NY Sales tax	37.31
	Paul Ballard (fruit basket)	60.80
	Pride of NY (lifetime membership, ESHPA)	25.00
Office	Checks, supplies, postage, copying, etc (434.37) (submitted for reimbursement 4/13/04)	444.52
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,043.38</b>

Bank balance on 01/01/04: \$12,540.80

### Statement of assets and liabilities as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003

#### Assets:

Cash on hand	0.00
Two 5-yr CDs @ 7.23% APR	2,983.06
3 free access accounts	9,552.74
Office supplies, banner, scanner	300.00
Observation hive	100.00
229 T-shirts	1,518.20

**Total assets:           \$ 14,459.00**

#### Liabilities:

Accounts payable (outstanding)	1,288.63
Uncleared checks	15.00

**Total liabilities           \$ 1,303.63**

# The Hive and the Honeybee

## Selections from the E.F. Phillips Beekeeping Collection at Mann Library

### Digitization of the EF Phillips Rare Book Collection

I am very pleased to tell you that ten books selected from ninety-one volumes from the EF Phillips Rare Beekeeping Book Collection designated for digitization are available to anyone with computer & internet access. If you have not seen these important early works of beekeeping history please go to <http://bees.library.cornell.edu>.

There is a new challenge that promises to more than double the number of volumes available because the Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association (TBBA) felt this an invaluable cause for which to donate. After they outright donated \$1000, they have proposed to match funds donated by beekeepers up to another \$1000. So if you or your association are interested please visit <http://easternapiculture.org/programs/phillips.pdf> where you can download a page explaining this current challenge. Or while perusing "The Hive and Honey the honeybee site" you can view the information there. Or drop me a line & I can get you the information as well.

How has this evolved? Here is a brief history of the of EF Phillips project! EF Phillips came to Cornell from Washington D.C. to escape the bureaucracy of the USDA in hopes of focusing on research. He immediately realized that there was no repository of relevant literature available on beekeeping for scientists or for beekeepers. As he had no money to start a library and considered it to be of direct benefit to beekeepers, he turned to New York beekeepers of the era with a unique proposition. He asked that each beekeeper set aside one hive in their apiary from which to donate the profits from honey sold up to \$50 to help develop an inclusive library at Cornell. The effort was an incredible success providing for the acquisition of important works. At the time, early 1920's, it was a huge endowment for the library system promising to fulfill Phillips's goal. Apparently, so successful as an endowment funds still exists today for the purchase of new texts, journals & article on beekeeping. As the money flowed Phillips bought important works, often through the help of industry contacts.

Ironically, at some time in the 70's or 80's, it became apparent that many of these books were one of a kind and extremely valuable from an historic perspective. They were also showing signs of deterioration. The most valuable were moved to a protective area with air conditioning, behind locks & sophisticated alarm systems; currently they are in the vault. Now beekeepers can make an appointment to visit the vault and with the assistance of a curator with white gloves who will help you look at, but don't touch, these books! Available? I suppose they are but not readily!

Because of our current effort you can now turn on your computer, point your browser to <http://bees.library.cornell.edu> and see the first 10 of 91 books proposed to be mounted for anyone anywhere in the world to view on-line. I think Phillips would be pleased that finally the intent of his effort has finally arrived and his dream of getting these works to beekeepers is a reality. Interestingly, it is because of a technology that was never conceived of during his lifetime. It could not have been so if NY beekeepers had not the vision to chip in & help obtain the books from the get go!

Once again as in Phillips time, beekeepers are needed to take the next step to make these invaluable volumes available to Beekeepers the world over. If we can match the funds that the TBBA have generously offered we would have enough money to mount another 10-15 volumes, which would more than double the number available to all beekeepers worldwide.

This project has a win, win, win outcome. The books are preserved through digitization, they are made available to the audience for which they were collected and donations may be a tax exemption helpful to the donator. Please consider this worthy cause and discuss it at your local & state meetings!

Mike Griggs  
President EAS 2002  
President Finger Lakes Beekeepers  
Association



Submitted by Judy Doan

## American Beekeeping Federation

The American Beekeeping Federation's 2005 convention will be held Jan. 12-15 in Reno, Nevada, at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort Hotel in Sparks. Convention-goers are encouraged to arrive early or stay late to take advantage of myriad winter activities in the Reno/Lake Tahoe area. Room rate is \$89; Room reservations: 1-800-648-1177

Area information: [www.renolaketahoe.com](http://www.renolaketahoe.com)

The Apiary Inspectors of America are scheduled to meet in conjunction with ABF and the American Bee Research Conference will also be held at the convention.

The ABF has been working on the following issues:

- **Spraying of Toxic Chemicals:** There have been questions regarding the label law that spraying of plants in bloom is illegal. Beekeepers believe this is the law and needs to be followed by spray applicators. ABF has filed a friend of the court brief, supporting the beekeepers. ABF has also made comments on mosquito spraying as pertaining to bee warning label
- **Chinese Ultra-Filtered Sweetener:** China is using ultra-filtration to clean up contaminated honey. Furthermore, a newly developed synthetic sweetener, when mixed 50:50 with real honey is almost impossible to detect.
- **Honey Identity:** Currently, there is no standard identity for honey telling exactly what constitutes "honey". Work continues to develop a world-wide accepted standard to aid in trade and detection of adulterated honey.

ABF continues to support and work on the following projects:

- Honey Bee Genome
- Formic Acid Product Development and registration
- Research for small hive beetle
- National Honey Board continuation
- Anti-dumping circumvention issues

This is a few of the many.

## The National Honey Board!

Still there and continually working to ensure the purity in increase the use of honey!

Submitted by Judy Doan



Presently the executive board is chaired by Leigh Heine (Wisc.), Bob Coyle (Wash.) Vice Chair, Clint Walker (Tx.) Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Woodworth (N.D.) and Tom Hamilton. Board members include George Hansen (Ore.) and Nancy Ga,ber (Pa.)

At our recent nominating committee meeting in Milwaukee, Wisc. (Sept. 23-25) I spoke to the USDA representative. The case for discontinuing the honey board will not be in court in the near future. There are some 22 cases ahead of it regarding paying of assessments to commodity boards. Also, we have a Secretary of Agriculture that funds commodity boards.

Also note that the request for establishing a Packer/Importer board is alive and moving forward. The constant demand for revoting on the referendum and constitutional challenge is expensive and keeps everything in limbo.

The NHB is currently budgeting 24% for research, 13% industry sciences, and 68% for marketing and promotion. Production research projects include: efficacy evaluation of a fogging method application of food grade mineral oil to control Varroa, an integrated approach to reducing pesticide and antibiotic use in honey bee colonies with formic acid and acetic acid for control of Varroa mites, small hive beetle, tracheal mites and honey bee viruses.

Other projects completed or on-going: honey and oral/dental health, antioxidant potential of daily honey consumption, identification of antibacterial compounds in honey, effect of honey on calcium absorption, glycemic index of various honeys, alternative medicine (allergy relief/prevention), sport nutrition, health promotion and disease prevention.



Two interesting promotional projects are:

- **Honey of a BBQ Tailgate Contest:** Recipe must use 1/3 cup of honey. So far 1000 recipes have been received. Top prize is a trip to the Pro Bowl in Hawaii.
- There will be a **New Products Showcase** in Kansas City October 20-21, featuring about a dozen new products using honey. The follow-up will include

product formulations, market strategy, names of contract manufacturers, logical next steps in development, label statements and mainstream competition.

These are just a few of the on-going and completed projects of the NHB.

The NHB can be contacted at 1-800-553-7162 or <http://www.honey.com> or <http://www.nhb.org>

**Editor's note:** The following two articles are reprinted from The Middlesex County Beekeepers Association Newsletter (March 2004, Volume 15, Number 3) to give an idea of alternative treatments for AFB that should be available to all beekeepers.

### Irradiation Program

American foul brood (AFB) remains a problem in addition to the mite problems we are having. AFB is being becoming resistant to terramycin used as a medication, however, realize that terramycin doesn't cure AFB if a hive is weakened it may succumb to AFB.

The spore stage of AFB is very longlived, it is not known for how long, but at least 50 years.

This is why a gamma irradiation program is so important. This treatment can be used to sterilize used equipment or equipment from hives that died off, so the bees have a good start.

### AFB Irradiation Program

by Andy Reseska

In an effort to control AFB contamination statewide, Reseska Apiaries, Inc. of Holliston organized the drop off point for boxed material to be irradiated and

transportation to and from the Steris Isomedix facility in Westboro.

For this program to be cost effective, the minimum amount of material to be irradiated must be met or exceed. Price is on the total quantity of boxes irradiated, estimated at \$ 5.00 to \$7.00 per box. The dimension of the box is 10"h x 24"L x 18"w . Boxes were supplied to clubs and individuals.

County Clubs were asked to help with the distribution of the corrugated boxes to individual members, and to establish a central drop off and pickup location before and after Irradiation of boxed material. Reseska Apiaries picked up at those locations when the minimum required volume was met.

Ask your county club to get involved in helping to pass the word on to other club members, who may benefit from this program. A colony infected with AFB scale becomes a problem for all beekeepers within a 2-3 mile radius of that colony.



2005 AHPA Convention  
January 4-8  
HOLIDAY INN PALO VERDE  
4550 South Palo Verde Blvd  
Tucson, Arizona  
520-746-1161  
Cut off date for reservations is 12/27/04  
Room rates are \$84.00 which includes breakfast  
buffet.  
<http://americanhoneyproducers.org/>



# The Spectator's View of The Bear Problem

Commentary by Joe Rowland

In 1977 at an international black bear management workshop in Montana, Stephan Clark (former NY DEC bear biologist) said, "Our bear management objective is to sustain a maximum annual harvest of bears by legal hunting, while maintaining bear populations at levels compatible with range carrying capacity and human land uses..... however we recognize that attainment (of our objective) in the future will not be as easy as in the past. Bear habitat is expected to diminish in quantity and quality as human populations and their land uses expand."

Mr. Clark stated that about 24% of New York's land was considered to be suitable habitat and the estimated bear population was about 4,000. He went on to point out that over the past 10 years (1967-1977) about 600 bears/year were killed (including illegal and nuisance kills).

Average bear mortality (from all causes) has recently been averaging well over 1,000/year (in 2003 a record 1,864 bears were taken by hunters alone). We can make a rough estimate of current bear numbers based on kill ratios and the fact that hunting is not even allowed in large tracts of currently occupied bear habitat. I would suggest that we have at least 10-15,000 bears wandering around our state. The DEC maintained in 2003 there were only 5-6,000 bears here!

Suitable bear habitat has increased steadily as farming has declined and forests have re-established themselves statewide. Over 50% of the state is now suitable habitat and much of this expanded bear country is in prime honey producing areas.

Later in his presentation, Clark detailed two "management problems" faced by his agency. One was a

slow decline in Catskill region bears from 1950-1970. Although that bear population had been stable from 1970 - 1975 the hunting season was closed in 1976 so that the bears could recover. The second problem faced by DEC in 1977 was us! Clark said, "There has been a traditional conflict with beekeepers who chose to establish apiaries in bear range. For a number of years the New York State Beekeepers Association has lobbied for legislation that would entitle beekeepers to reimbursement for damages caused by bears to apiaries. The proposal has been resisted (by the DEC) because of the precedent it would set for reimbursing damages sustained by the public from all species of wildlife."

At the time of Clark's presentation several states and Canadian provinces were in fact already setting a precedent by compensating beekeepers for damages inflicted by bears. In 2004 the state of Virginia passed a wildlife damage compensation law joining the ranks of state and provincial governments who recognize that they should assume a measure of responsibility for the damage caused to beekeepers by the bears that reside within their borders.

If Virginia can, why can't New York? If we work together I think it would be possible to close our long running communication gap with the DEC. The bear problem is only going to get worse until and unless some major changes occur in the behavior of both beekeepers and the DEC. We can do it!

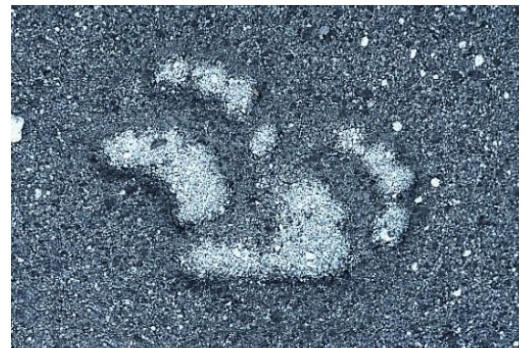
Clark's quotations come from: NY DEC Proceedings of the Workshop on the Management and Biology of North American Black Bear - "The Black Bear in Modern North America". Kalispell, Montana 2/17 - 2/19 1977. Ed. D. Burk. Publ. Boone and Crockett Club 1979, Clinton, NJ.



FRONT



HIND



## NOD gets the Nod!

*New York State with NOD Apiary Products USA Inc. applied for and received from the EPA a Special Local Needs (SLN) registration for Mite-AwayII Single Application Formic Acid Pad. It was granted September 17 (SLN No. NY-040006) and the first truck load is being delivered to various NY beekeepers on Monday, October 4.*

*NY State already had Section 18s in place for Checkmite+ and ApiLife Var, and registrations for Apistan and Sucroside (Sucrose Octanoate Ester), so documentation of the need and requests from the industry were required for the EPA to even consider the application.*

*The EPA did not want to support a SLN since the Section 3(full EPA registration) is scheduled for completion by December 26. However, they were convinced to support the issue of a restricted SLN: apply before October 31,04 and only to be used by beekeepers in NY with 500 or more hives.*

*To meet these restrictions Mite-AwayII will not be shipped after October and a minimum order is a half pallet(480 pads).*

*Mite-AwayII is a pre-packaged, ready-to-use food grade formic acid treatment. For more information check out the website at [www.miteaway.com](http://www.miteaway.com) or call 866-483-2929.*



Hello New York beekeepers!

You may already know this, being the well-informed apiculturists that you all are, but the State of New York has approved a Special Local Needs registration for Mite-Away II Formic Acid Pads for use this fall. The stipulations are that in order to purchase it, you must have 500 or more hives and the expiry date on this registration is October 31, 2004. I have your names because over the last 2 to 3 years you have filled in ballots or lists when NOD Apiary Products has had tables at conventions. We keep your names for times such as this, when information needs to be distributed in a timely fashion. I know that you may not fall into the 500+ hives category, but as a beekeeper who, I'm sure wants to see effective varroa treatments available, you deserve to be given this information.

The DEC worked very hard to get this SLN registration through. EPA didn't really want to see it happen, due to the fact that our full federal Section 3 registration is supposed to go through by the end of this year. We here at NOD applaud the DEC and Dr. Nick Calderone for sticking with it and documenting New York State's varroa problems so thoroughly.

Please visit our website at [www.miteaway.com](http://www.miteaway.com) for more information on using Mite-Away II Single Application Formic Acid Pads, or call me toll free 866-483-2929. Please pass this email on to anyone you feel may be interested. Thank you, and David and I hope to see you at another convention somewhere, sometime!

Liz Corbett, Business Manager  
David VanderDussen, President

## It's ALL Politics!

Editorial by Aaron Morris

It's encouraging that the Special Local Needs registration for formic acid pads was granted, and I echo the applause for Dr. Nicholas Calderone for his efforts. Unfortunately, the 500-hive minimum excludes a majority of ESHA members. For a 150-hive sideliner, the SLN registration amounts to another carrot dangled just out of this beekeeper's reach.

Continually, tools to combat pests and diseases of honey bees that are readily available to beekeepers in other parts of the world and denied to US beekeepers, and tools available in other states are denied to New York beekeepers. I encourage beekeepers to be more proactive in effecting the legislative changes needed to allow New York beekeepers to use treatments that are to date denied them. This newsletter contains articles about two such treatments (oxalic acid and gamma irradiation) that have proven to be

highly effective in combating Varroa and tracheal mites and AFB respectively, yet their use is denied legislatively to New York beekeepers. I feel the time is long past due for New York's beekeepers to act to effect the requisite legislative changes to allow the use of proven treatments!

A good starting point is the fall meeting where I will introduce resolutions to get the ball rolling. But the buck can't stop there. Beekeepers must get their heads out of their hives and communicate their needs to their political representatives. Write letters! And don't forget to support those who support us! If your letter includes a check, all the better. The Chairs of the Agricultural Committees in the NYS Senate and Assembly have been very supportive of beekeepers' needs. Remember that one hand washes the other. Also don't forget the NYS Farm Bureau which exists to support agriculture in the state. If you are not supporting those who support you, DO SO!

## Oxalic Acid to Treat Varroa

Experiments in Europe have shown very promising results using oxalic acid, either as a vapor or as a solution in sugar syrup dripped over broodless bees, to control Varroa destructor in honey bee colonies.

"Winter treatment is extremely important in some alternative control strategies against Varroa because the majority of mites are destroyed that would otherwise constitute the basis for next year's population. These are mites that either survive the autumn treatment or they enter the colony by re-invasion. The drip treatment with a solution of sugar and oxalic acid has proved successful for treatment in autumn. This method is simple, quick, cheap, and very effective in broodless colonies. However, under certain conditions it can weaken the colonies in spring. Trials have been carried out within the framework of a joint European research project in Switzerland and other countries in order to develop a more suitable treatment. Based on our own results and those of other European institutes we are now able to make recommendations for the beekeepers in Central Europe...

In all apiaries a success rate of more than 90% resulted with oxalic acid solutions of 30, 37 and 45 g OA in 1 litre sugar syrup 1:1. Only in four of a total of 146 colonies treated with one of these solutions were more than 50 surviving Varroa found... The effectiveness of the three solutions did not differ significantly; the one of the 30 g solution was slightly less than the two others. Therefore, this concentration is probably the lowest limit and cannot be reduced any further without negatively affecting the efficiency.

### RECOMMENDATIONS for the drip treatment with oxalic acid (Switzerland and Central Europe)

**Composition of the solution:** 35 g oxalic acid dihydrate in 1 litre sugar syrup 1:1

**Quantity:** 30 ml for a small colony  
40 ml for a medium colony  
50 ml for a large colony

This quantity corresponds to 5 – 6 ml for each occupied bee-space of a Dadant or Swiss hive.

**Time of treatment:** In broodless colonies (November – December)

#### Remarks:

- only **one** treatment in autumn
- drip the solution directly on the bees between the frames
- treat with lukewarm solution
- perform the treatment at an ambient temperature above 0°C
- use only freshly prepared solutions or solutions that have been stored for max. 6 months at a maximum of 15°C
- under certain conditions, drip treatment with oxalic acid may slightly weaken the colonies in spring. The spray treatment with oxalic acid is better tolerated by the bees (30 g OA dihydrate / litre water, 3-4 ml per occupied frame side); description of spraying method and results see [4];
- wear gloves and safety goggles during the treatment

**Any use of unregistered products in honey bee colonies constitutes a home remedy. Honey produced in colonies subjected to home remedies cannot be sold for public consumption. This article is not a recommendation to use oxalic acid.**

<http://www.entom.slu.se/res/bi/Proceedings.html#Oxalic%20Acid%20for%20Mite%20Control%20-%20Results%20and%20Review>

[http://www.members.shaw.ca/orioleln/Oxalic\\_Acid.htm](http://www.members.shaw.ca/orioleln/Oxalic_Acid.htm)

<http://www.alqonet.se/~beeman/research/oxalic/oxalic-1-nf.htm>

<http://www.beedata.com/files/drip-oxalic-bogdanov.PDF>

## Coming Attractions and Dates to Remember!

**November 12-13, 2004:** Empire State Honey Producers Association fall meeting, Owego, New York.

**January 4-8, 2005:** American Honey Producers Association annual convention, Holiday Inn, Tucson, Arizona

**January 12-15, 2005:** American Beekeeping Federation Annual Convention – John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort Hotel – Sparks (Reno), Nevada

**March 13, 2005:** SABA Spring Seminar, University at Albany, Albany New York. Confirmed speakers: Dr. Dewey Caron, Ms. Sue Cobey.

**August 1-5, 2005:** Eastern Apicultural Society of North America, Inc. annual conference at Kent State University in Ohio.

**August 25-September 5, 2005:** New York State Fair; Syracuse, NY.

Anthem for beekeepers in northeastern NY for the year 2004, proposed by Joe Rowland.

Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head

To the tune by the same name, originally composed by Burt Bacharach ( – sorry Burt).

*Raindrops keep falling on my head  
the bees, they might as well be dead  
and the flowers never seem to yield*

*Chorus*

*Ah, but I'm never gonna stop the rain by complaining  
Nothing's bothering me. I'm as free as a bee.*

*I tried to work them in the rain  
that just led to quite a bit of pain.  
The pads don't seem to work*

*Chorus*

*A bear dropped by the other day  
there really isn't much more I need to say.  
My hives are all in the muck*

*Chorus*

*My truck got stuck just today  
It must be time I begin to pray.  
Axle on the ground, no tractor to be found*

*Chorus*

## Honey Competition CLASSES RULES

**Honey, Extracted:** Three unlabeled 1 lb queenline jars are required in each of the classes.

- Light
- Light amber
- Amber
- Dark

**Comb Honey:** Three pieces of each class entered.

- Round
- Cut comb
- Square Section

### Wax:

- Candles One pair of hand dipped and/or molded candles are required.
- Beeswax One 1 lb of any shape.

**Baking:** Entries must be accompanied by the recipe as used & written on 3"x5" cards. Two copies must be submitted. Attach the recipe to the outside of the entry. 100% of the sweetening ingredients of the entries must be honey. However, secondary sweetening ingredients, or ingredients that contribute to the appearance of the entry, may contain sweeteners other than honey. Secondary ingredients include chocolate, candy bits, coconut, preserved fruits and peels, marshmallows, nuts, colors and flavors. Appearance items include the above ingredients and icings, fillings, dustings, decorations, glazing, and toppings. Entries will be exhibited as received. Plates will not be furnished. Entries should be on paper or tin foil plates, covered with a see-through wrap, sealed completely. The winning recipes may be published. *The Honey Cooking Show Judge has authority to accept, reject, and classify entries in accordance with the rules.*

- CLASS 1: Cookies - Bar, Drop, Rolled (6)
- CLASS 2: Yeast breads and rolls (1 small loaf or 6 rolls)
- CLASS 3: Quick bread and muffins (1 small loaf or 6 muffins)
- CLASS 4: Cake (small)

Calling All Entries  
for Fall Meeting  
Honey Competition!



All members are urged to enter as many classes as possible in order to have a good show. Della Erickson will be in charge of the show. All entries must be registered with her by noon on Friday November 12<sup>th</sup>.

The bee is such a busy soul,  
She has no time for birth control.  
And that is why, in times like these,  
There are so many sons of bees!

## Bee Culture

THE MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN BEEKEEPING

Don't Miss Even One Exciting Issue of *Bee Culture* Magazine filled with everything you want to know about:

- Bees • Beekeeping • Beekeepers • How-To's •
- Honey Report • Profiles • Recipes •
- Funny Stories • Research • Something For Everybody •

**\$16.00**  
Take Advantage of This Association Discount!

Send check to: **Bee Culture Magazine**  
623 W. Liberty, Medina, OH 44256 or call 800-289-7668,  
Ext. 3220 with credit card

## Apiary Industry Advisory Committee Report

The Apiary Industry Advisory Committee met in the Empire Room in the Empire Center (noisy dining facility), at the State Fair, in Syracuse on September 1, 2004.

Present: Bill Crowell (Chair), Jim Doan, Bruce Fiegel, Phil Finster, Clint Fudge, Jonathan Ryan, Peter Ten Euyck, Ron Tweedie, Stephen Wilson, Earl Villecco, Nick Calderone, Robert Mungari, Rick Zimmerman (Deputy Commissioner.), Paul Cappy (Chief Apiary Inspector), Pamela Nielsen-Murphy (Lab Analyst). Absent: Eugene Gleason, Jeff Klein. (Fred Ludewig, John Moloney & Mark Rulison have resigned or terms ended.)

Steve Wilson was nominated by Jon Ryan and elected to replace Bill Crowell as Chair. Rick Zimmerman spoke about the Governor's veto of \$105,000 for the Apiary Inspection Program and \$85,000 for the Cornell Apiary Research. Program. Steve Wilson called to form a committee to address the reductions. He will coordinate this effort with the ESHPA and the NY Farm Bureau. It was opined that little would be done on the "Member Items" in the vetoed State Budget until after the national elections. Members of the sub-committee to address the vetoed funding include Stephen Wilson, Jim Doan, Earl Villecco and Bill Crowell.

Bob Mungari addressed the notification letters that had been sent out

to some of those who were inspected this year - the purpose to verify the number and status of their colonies. Also notification of Varroa levels and AFB found. There will also reports from the federal lab on the resistance levels of AFB to Terramycin.

Paul Cappy spoke about the present State inspection program - still looking for qualified beekeepers to fill inspector positions (Seasonal: April-October). There are now three regional senior inspectors and 11 inspectors.

Nick Calderone will be on Sabbatical this fall. He spoke about continuing effort to breed 150 hygienic queens (Site near Tahawus, south of the High Peaks, Essex County. 2000 sq. ft. have been added to Dyce Lab.

Nick was submitting a request for Special Local Need for Mite-Away II. (Note subsequent "progress" as noticed from B. Mungari's office - permission for application by beekeepers with 500 or more colonies.)

After some discussion on the possibility of developing and publishing information on Best Management Practices for honeybees and guides for identifying major honeybee pests, Stephen Wilson asked for a sub-committee to develop background materials and to begin to scope out a viable program. Nick C., Earl Villecco and Robert Mungari answered his call for volunteers.

### Preliminary Program Fall Meeting 2004

Treadway Inn and Conference Center in Owego, New York

#### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12

8:30am REGISTRATION  
 9:00am WELCOME - President ESHPA - Wm. Crowell  
 9:10am Annoucement of Committees  
 9:30am UPDATE ON APIARY INSPECTIONS  
 10:00am I.P.M.  
 Nicholas Calderone, Prof. of Apiculture,  
 Cornell University  
 10:45am \*F.D.A.  
 11:15am ONTARIO'S BREEDING PROGRAM FOR  
 HYGENIC BEHAVIOR  
 Allison Skinner  
 12:00pm LUNCH  
Honey Show Entries Due  
 Honey Show - Coordinator, Della Erickson  
 1:00pm APIS MELIFERAS OF THE ADRONDACKS  
 Wm. Romey, Potsdam State  
 1:45pm \* SENATOR NANCY HOFFMAN  
 2:00pm THE WONDERFULL WORLD OF THE  
 BUMBLEBEE  
 Kathryn Gardner, Cornell University  
 2:45 pm BREAK

3:00pm QUEEN & DRONE REARING : Simple Field  
 Tests To Determine Their Quality  
 SELECTIVE BREEDING : Constraints &  
 Opportunities  
 Sue Coby ,Ohio State

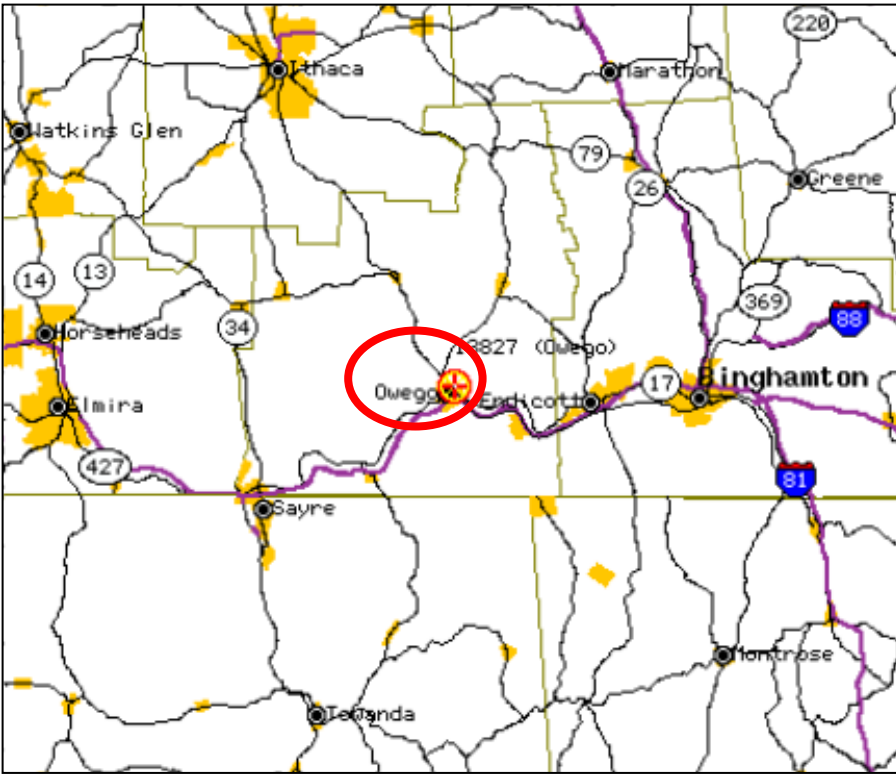
4:00pm BUSINESS MEETING

6:30pm BANQUET -  
 Keynote Speaker Howard Scott

#### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13

9:00am ORGANIC BEEKEEPING  
 Allison Skinner  
 9:45am Howard Scott  
 10:30am BREAK  
 11:45am BELTSVILLE LAB UPDATE-  
 Antibiotics in AFB & Viruses in Honey  
 Bees  
 Mark Feldlaufer  
 12:00pm - MEETING ADJOURNS

THE DIRECTORS WILL MEET ON THURSDAY  
 NIGHT NOVEMBER 11TH AT 7:00 PM  
 IN THE OWEGO TREADWAY .



- From the south (Binghamton): Take Route 17 west to exit 65. Turn right at stop sign. Bear left at fork in the road, towards Route 17C west. At traffic light, Holiday Inn Express - Owego is straight ahead or turn right onto Route 17C west and the Owego Treadway Inn and Suites is on the left.
- From the northeast (Syracuse): Take Route 81 south to Route 17 west. Then follow above directions.
- From the North (Ithaca): Take Route 96 south to Owego, New York. Take Route 17C east for approximately 2 miles. Owego Treadway Inn and Suites and Holiday Inn Express - Owego are on the right
- From the northwest (Buffalo / Rochester): Take Route 390 east to Route 17 east to exit 65. Turn right at the stop sign. Bear left at the fork in the road toward Route 17C west. At the traffic light, Holiday Inn Express - Owego is straight ahead or turn right onto Route 17C and the Owego Treadway Inn and Suites is on the left.
- From the east (Albany): Take Route 88 west to Binghamton to Route 17 west and then follow the directions from Binghamton (above).

## 2004 ESHPA FALL MEETING, NOV. 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>: PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one of the following\***

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Non-member | New member  |
| Renewal    | Life member |

**Pre-registration costs**

- |                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Member (paid up for 2004) & spouse: | \$25 |
| Non-member & spouse:                | \$30 |

\*Note: If the last two digits on the address label of this newsletter are not 03, 04 or LM, you are not currently a member! However, you can pay for 2004 and 2005 now!

Registration on day of conference is \$5 more for both categories.

*Please indicate what you would like to pay for:*

- |                                 |         |          |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------|
| 2004 dues @ \$20 / person:      | # _____ | \$ _____ |
| 2005 dues @ \$20 / person:      | # _____ | \$ _____ |
| Lifetime dues @ \$300 / person: | # _____ | \$ _____ |
| Pre-registration @ \$25:        | # _____ | \$ _____ |
| Pre-registration @ \$30:        | # _____ | \$ _____ |
| Banquet buffet @ \$21 / person: | # _____ | \$ _____ |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                   |         | \$ _____ |

◇ Banquet will be a buffet with stuffed chicken breast with cream sauce, beef roulades, salads, vegetable, beverage throughout the meal, coffee afterwards, and chef's choice of deserts. Price \$21.

Make check payable to ESHPA.

**MAIL BY Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> to:**

**Deborah Kalicin Secretary/Treasurer  
273 Randall Rd.  
Lisbon, NY 13658**

***Lodging arrangements should be made directly with the the Treadway Inn; 1-(607) 687-4500. Rooms must be reserved by Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> to guarantee availability. Mention ESHPA when you make your reservation.***



# EMPIRE STATE Honey Producers Association

*Protecting the Interests of New York Beekeepers since 1867*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a newsletter to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this membership form and send along with a check (Pay To The Order of: E.S.H.P.A.) in the amount of \$20 to:

Deborah Kalicin  
Secretary/Treasurer  
273 Randall Rd.  
Lisbon, NY 13658



Summer Fun at  
Newly Improved  
Dyce Lab.  
Thanks Nick!



Return Address:  
Deborah Kalicin  
ESHPA Secretary/Treasurer  
273 Randall Rd.  
Lisbon, NY 13658



**Mail To:**