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

Summer Picnic

The summer meeting will be hosted by Greg and Debs Kalicin in Lisbon, NY on Saturday July 25, 2009. There will be a short business meeting starting at 11:00AM. Lunch will be at noon and will feature BBQ Chicken. Members are requested to bring a covered dish to share, beverage of choice, place setting and lawn chairs.

Alison VanAlten from the OBA Tech Transfer Team will speak starting at 1:00PM. Her topic and demonstration will be on the field identification of Nosema spore. We are planning on having several microscopes for folks to be able to identify these spores. Paul Kozak will also present techniques for sampling for Varroa.

There will be a nominal fee of \$5 to help defray costs. Additional information and a map is posted at the ESHPA website http://www.eshpa.org

Directions to Harmony Farm Apiary, 273 Randall Road, Waddington, NY. (N 44° 48' 152" - W 75° 14' 264")

Our directions are quite detailed and specific, since we reside in the Town of Waddington and there is another Randal Road in the Township of Lisbon. PLEASE <u>DO NOT</u> USE MAPQUEST DIRECTIONS.

• From Ogdensburg:

- 1. Take NY Rte 37 East toward Massena. From the Junction of NY Rte 37 and the Ogdensburg/Prescott Bridge approach (Flashing Light) proceed 12 miles or 20 kilometers to the Connie Woods Road/County Rte 31A (Large White/Grey barn on Corner) turn right onto County Rte 31A.
- 2. Continue on County Rte 31A, stopping at the four corners of County Rte 31A and County Rte 28 (Old 37 A). Continue going straight on County Rte 31A. At the second right (first right is the Henry Road) turn right onto the Randall Road. We are the first house on the right.
- From Canton: Please note that the Rte 345 Bridge in Madrid is closed.
- 1. At the intersection of US Rte 11, NY State Rte 68, and NY State Rte 310 (Stewarts is on the corner) take NY State Rte 310 towards Madrid.
- 2. Proceed on NY State Rte 310 (7.2 miles) till you come the four corners of the Cnty Rte 34 the West Potsdam road and NY State Rte 310. Just before the intersection you will pass under a large electric transmission line. Turn Left onto Cnty Rte 34, there will be Detour signs for NY State Rte 345 North, cross the Grasse River. Cnty Rte 34 ends and turns into Cnty Rte 14 proceed go up hill approximately 1000' to the Buck Rd. Turn left on the Buck Rd. Stay on the Buck Rd till the end. After stopping, turn left onto Cnty Rte 31.
- 3. Continue on County Rte 31 for approximately 3 mile. Turn right onto Randall Road and we are the last house on the left side, approximately 1 mile.



State Fair

August 27, 2009 through September 7, 2009. Syracuse, NY

We need volunteers, there are never too many. So please sign up. Those who work at the ESHPA Booth will receive free admission and parking passes. Especially needed is someone to open up in the morning; this would be a great help! Sign up sheets will be circulated at the summer picnic. Please do your share to promote honey and beekeeping.

We will be selling honey; YOUR honey, YOUR label, YOUR product that people from all over the state will see, taste and use! ESHPA buys from you whatever we sell and gives you back the rest. We will be raising prices and paying more this year. You must have \$1,000,000 product liability insurance and have a copy of certificate on hand at the booth (this is a State Fair rule).

Products to be sold include 1 lb. skeps, 12 oz. bears, creamed honey, comb honey and cut-comb honey. Beeswax and beeswax products, such as hand cream, lip balm, etc. are needed (insurance is also required). Contact me or Earl Villecco (607-693-1571) if you are interested.

Respectfully, Rob Sorrensen (315) 585-6670

• From Potsdam: Please note that the Rte 345 bridge in Madrid is closed

At the intersection of US Rte 11, NY State Rte 345 (Kinney's Drug is on the corner) take NY State Rte 345 towards Madrid. Proceed on NY State Rte 345, (2.5 miles) till you come to the intersection of Cnty rte 34. Turn left onto Cnty Rte 34 -- Be careful at this intersection, there is limited sight distance for oncoming vehicles. Proceed on Cnty Rte 34 (5.8 miles & two STOP signs) until you cross the Grasse River. Cnty Rte 34 ends and turns into Cnty Rte 14 proceed go up hill to the Buck Rd. Turn left on the Buck Rd. Stay on the Buck Rd till the end. After stopping, turn left onto Cnty Rte 31. Continue on County Rte 31 for approximately 3 mile. Turn right onto Randall Road and we are the last house on the left side, approximately 1 mile

• From Massena (Cornwall):

Take NY Rte 37 west toward Ogdensburg. Continue through Waddington (flashing yellow light) on NY Rte 37 an additional 4 miles to the Connie Woods Road /County Rte 31A (Large White Barn on Corner) turn left onto County Rte 31A.

Follow Directions from Ogdensburg at step 2.

2008 Fall Board Meeting Minutes



Place: Comfort Inn & Suites in Liverpool, New York. Date and Time: Thursday, November 6, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

President Ted Elk called the meeting to order. The Summer Meeting Minutes and Treasurers report were presented by Hans Junga.

Aaron Morris made a motion to accept meeting minutes. Mark Berninghausen seconded, a third by Joan Howland, and was unanimously passed.

The drafting of a letter of no confidence in the AIAC was approved for presentation to the general membership. This was the second motion made by Mark Berninghausen. It was seconded by Aaron Morris, and unanimously carried.

A guest, Robert Brachmann, expressed the disapproval by western NY beekeepers of bee yard registration legislation passed. This disapproval was also printed in the fall ESHPA newsletter.

Desires for more representation and better communication to Commissioner of Ag & Markets from AIAC through beekeepers of

New York, are goals for the future. The coinciding of meetings dates of ESHPA and AIAC, as suggested by Ted Elk and Mike Griggs, is one way of including representatives in our meetings.

A third motion was made by Greg Kalicin to keep the Heifer Organization as the recipient of ESHPA's \$100.00 memorial fund. It was seconded by Joan Howland, and was passed, with 1 vote opposed and 4 abstained.

Meeting minutes and appendixes of the June AIAC Meeting were distributed to the officers and directors by Paul Cappy.

A fourth motion to adjourn was made by Joan Howland. It was seconded by Mike Griggs, and was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted, Hans Junga Secretary/Treasurer

2008 Fall General Meeting Minutes



Place: Comfort Inn & Suites in Liverpool, New York. Date and Time: Friday, November 7, 2008, 3:30 p.m.

President Ted Elk called the meeting to order. The Summer Meeting Minutes and Treasurers report were presented by Hans Junga.

Peter Bizzoso made a motion to accept meeting minutes. Jim Howard seconded, and the motion was carried.

Aaron Morris made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Peter Bizzoso seconded, and the motion was carried.

Aaron Morris attended the EAS Conference. Aaron, the Kalicins, Doans, and Kuticks were among those attending the National Bee Meeting & Honey and Health Symposium. It was a good meeting, 1,800 in attendance. Report to follow from Chuck Kutick.

Sam Hall is in contact with lawyers for expediting incorporation of ESHPA. As an organization we may only lobby for ourselves in legislative matters.

Ted Elk discusses letter of no confidence proposed in Director's Meeting. The advisors to the AIAC are made aware of ESHPA's concerns that are not being communicated to the Commissioner of Ag & Markets. It is agreed that these concerns be voiced directly to the advisors. AIAC's communication had been good, according to Earl Villecco and Chuck Kutick.

The release of AIAC meeting agendas and minutes has been held up by Ag & Markets policy and procedures, but will improve in the future, Paul Cappy explains. Paul also claims Commissioner Patrick Hooker has been supportive of the bee industry, knows the problems

of beekeepers, and is committed to make improvements at $Ag\ \&\ Markets.$

Mark Berninghausen believes the system is to blame rather than any individual, and makes the third motion to hold off on sending the no confidence letter. Amy Wakefield seconds the motion, and is carried by majority vote.

State Fair Director, Rob Sorensen, calls for a need for more participation from the membership to run the honey display. More help will be required this year to open the booth in the morning. Debs Kalicin reminds us that ESHPA relies on State Fair sales to cover expenses for the entire year.

The Newsletter Editor position is open to anyone interested. Aaron Morris has done a great job using Microsoft Word on the computer. The electronic copies were received well last year to those with email addresses.

The summer meeting will be hosted by Greg and Debs Kalicin in Lisbon, NY on the 25^{th} of July, 2009. A chicken barbeque is planned; more details to follow.

The fourth motion was made by Joan Howland to fill the vacancies in Vice President Positions. It was seconded by Greg Kalicin, and unanimously passed.

Aaron Morris - 2nd Vice President Mike Griggs - 3rd Vice President

The fifth motion to close polls was made by Earl Villecco. It was

seconded by Fred Ludewig, and unanimously passed.

The sixth motion to cast one ballot was made by Mark Berninghausen. It was seconded by Debs Kalicin, and unanimously passed.

The seventh motion to adjourn was made by Debs Kalicin. It was seconded by Chuck Kutick, and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted, Hans Junga Secretary/Treasurer

2009 Spring Board Meeting Minutes



First Vice President, Greg Kalicin, called the meeting to order. Minutes of the Fall Board and General Meeting, Officer and Director List, and Treasurer's Report were presented by Hans Junga.

Also present were Aaron Morris, Mike Griggs, William Crowell, Judy Doan, Richard Wakefield, Rob Sorensen, Joan-Ann Howland, and guests Joe Rowland and Ed Doan.

Aaron made the first motion to accept the board meeting minutes, as amended. It was seconded by Joan-Ann, and was unanimously carried.

Joan-Ann made the second motion to accept the general meeting minutes, as amended. It was seconded by Mike, and was unanimously carried

Joan-Ann made the third motion to accept the treasury report. It was seconded by Mike, and was passed by a vote of 8 (yes) to 1 (abstain).

The upcoming newsletter was discussed. Without an editor, a flyer or smaller version may be necessary for the next issue. Amy Wakefield was mentioned to be a possible candidate. Aaron has offered to tutor and help out the next editor get started.

Aaron made the forth motion to allot \$1,500 for expenses for the summer picnic. It was seconded by Joan-Ann, and was unanimously carried.

Mike made the fifth motion to charge \$5.00 admission per adult for the picnic. It was seconded by Judy, and was passed by a vote of 8 (yes) to 1 (abstain). It was agreed that the person collecting money at the gate use discretion in charging admission to children.

Bill made the sixth motion to make a \$1,500 allocation for state fair expenses. Aaron seconded the motion. The seventh motion to amend the sixth was made by Aaron, and seconded by Bill to increase the allocation to \$2,500. It was unanimously carried.

The honey booth is in need of modernizing; new display cabinets, increased space, and request for a permanent structure are being considered. Rob suggested pursuing a grant from the State. Ted Elk and Greg will contact Senator Aubertine for help with this.

Fall meeting speakers are being booked. Dave Tarpy of N. Carolina and Jerry Hayes of Florida will attend. Ron Fesserson is being contacted. The cost for the meeting will be the same as last year. Vendors will be encouraged to stay both days if room is available.

The eighth motion was made by Joan-Ann to donate \$25.00 to the Trinity Church. Mike seconded the motion, which was amended to \$35.00, and unanimously carried as the ninth motion.

Place: Trinity Church, Rome, NY Date and Time: April 4, 2009, 10:45 am

The tenth motion was made by Aaron to donate \$300.00 for the EAS speaker fund. It was seconded by Rich, and unanimously carried.

Budget cuts this year may affect inspection programs, research and job positions at Cornell / Dyce Lab. The eleventh motion by Mike was made to send a letter of ESHPA's support of the research program there. It was seconded by Rob, and unanimously carried.

The CODEX standard for honey was discussed. The USFDA has no national standard in place; therefore it has to be established on the State level. Nancy Gentry's work done in Florida can be used as a model to develop a plan for New York. Rob and Aaron are going to look for a lawyer with beekeeping knowledge for advice. Aaron will correspond with Nancy and the NY Farm Bureau.

Joe Rowland distributed the resolution he wrote and brought to the AIAC meeting in January. The minutes from that meeting were provided. A letter to Stephen Wilson from Commissioner Hooker, which mentioned the resolution and the Commissioner's response to it, was discussed.

A one year moratorium was agreed to from the resolution. The remaining two points were not agreed to and were not correctly reflected in the January meeting minutes.

As a result of ESHPA's unsuccessful efforts to convey the disapproval of Registration Legislation through to the Commissioner, a letter/survey is being drafted by Mike to be sent to all bee organizations of New York State to elicit their support. A stronger voice will be heard if both hobbyist and commercial beekeepers are united. A petition sent to the AIAC Chair and all members, Farm Bureau members of all counties, following the proper avenues will most effective.

The final resolution was for the ESHPA Board of Directors to 1) support the repeal of NYS Agriculture and Markets Law amendments, 2) urge the Commissioner of Agriculture to suspend implementation of amendments immediately, and 3) recommend the general membership endorse the first two items of the resolution at the next meeting.

The twelfth motion was made by Rob to accept the resolution. It was seconded by Aaron, and was approved unanimously.

The thirteenth motion to adjourn at 3:00 pm was made by Joan-Ann, seconded by Rich, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted, Hans Junga Secretary/Treasurer

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The following resolution was passed at the ESHPA **Spring Board of Directors** meeting and will be discussed and voted upon at the summer picnic.

THE MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN BEEKEEPING

Here's what you'll get

- · Honey bees · Beekeeping · Beekeepers · Honey ·
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Betterbee Field Day

Sat. July 11, 2009, 9-5, Greenwich NY

Registration: 800-632-3379 code: FD09; lunch provided by boy scouts.

Get Ready for the Flow, Dr. Nicholas Calderone, Associate Professor of Entomology, Cornell University.

Commercial Queen Rearing, Valerie Severson, Strachan Apiaries (1954).

Status of Nosema Disease and Viruses in Ontario. Janet Tam and Melanie Kempers

Resolution by ESHPA Board of Directors regarding 2007 amendments to the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law (chapter 249) in relation to beekeeper surveys and mandatory apiary registration. (7/18/07 enactment)

Whereas, surveys and actions by various N.Y. beekeeping organizations indicate a significant number of the state's beekeepers including a clear majority of commercial operators oppose mandatory registration of apiary locations, and

Whereas, enactment of said amendments without sufficient public comment or any prior consultation with the Empire State Honey Producers Association (ESHPA) has seriously damaged the credibility of and support for the apiary inspection program, and

Whereas, the rationale for the implementation of said amendments, as put forward by the State Apiculturalist in a letter (3/7/08) to N.Y. beekeepers, is speculative, unsubstantiated, and otherwise specious, particularly in the context of the current and likely future capacity of the apiary inspection program,

Therefore, be it resolved that the ESHPA Board of Directors 1) supports the repeal of said amendments, 2) urges the Commissioner of Agriculture to suspend implementation of the amendments immediately, and 3) recommends that the general membership endorses items 1 and 2 of this resolution at their next meeting.

The Spectator

By Joe Rowland

Total Apiary Awareness - The new bee law - origin - status - future?

In July 2007, amendments to the laws governing the NYS inspection program were enacted. They authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets (Ag & Markets) to compel beekeepers to register apiary locations and provide information for the purpose of assessing the condition of the state's honey bee population. This part of the law is discretionary in that the Commissioner may choose how to exercise this authority. For example, if the collection of some types of information proves to be problematic, unpopular, or of little value, implementation can be altered or suspended as the Commissioner sees fit. As written, only one part of the new law is compulsory. That requires beekeepers to obtain an identification number and post it on a conspicuous place at each apiary. Also, there is conditional confidentiality regarding information compiled on individual beekeepers.

The vast majority of NY beekeepers, including most officers of the Empire State Honey Producers Association (ESHPA) were unaware of the legislation as it moved through the legislative process. The amendments were supported by Farm Bureau (FB) lobbyists who acted on the basis of an FB policy position endorsed by their members in 2005 and 2006. That position simply said, "We support the registration of beekeepers." There is nothing about a mandatory program or any other aspect of the enacted legislation. Ag & Markets has been registering beekeepers and apiaries voluntarily for many years. The new law was created within Ag & Markets, approved by the Governor's office, and introduced to the legislature in April 2007 without prior public notice or comment. It wasn't introduced until after the ESHPA spring Directors meeting and became law before their next scheduled assembly at the ESHPA summer picnic. Considering that the amendments would predictably be greeted with disapproval by many beekeepers who might try to block their enactment, the timing was plausibly intentional on the part of Aq & Markets.

I recall discussion of compulsory registration at one of the Apiary Industry Advisory Committee's (AIAC) early meetings. At that time, AIAC members thought it inadvisable due to probable opposition from beekeepers. According to sources within the current AIAC, they were informed about the legislation in June 2007. The topic was framed as, "how should the new law be implemented and are there any adjustments necessary?" The AIAC was thus brought into the process in such a way as to minimize outright opposition. These strategic maneuvers failed to prevent a public outcry which commenced as beekeepers statewide found out about it.

At the February 2009 AIAC meeting, ESHPA president Ted Elk introduced a resolution advising the Commissioner to, "suspend current efforts to compel apiary registration pending clear and unequivocal support by a majority of the state's regional beekeeping groups, such majority including ESHPA." It was approved 6-4, with 6 out of 8 attending beekeepers in support. Of the two who opposed, one was a hobbyist and the other a supposed sideliner who has no bees! In a responding letter to AIAC chairman Steve Wilson, the Commissioner states, "anyone could have contacted the Senate and Assembly sponsors to advocate for or against the bill..., and that between 6 and 18 July 2007, anyone could have contacted the Governor to advocate that he sign or veto the bill... As you can see, the legislative process is truly an open process and offers citizens... the opportunity for input throughout." The major detail left out of this defense of democracy is that scarcely any of the stakeholders had a clue as to the existence of the It is troubling if the Commissioner actually legislation! believes his technically true statements vindicate the enactment of these amendments. Beekeepers were unaware of the legislation and were therefore unable to react to it in a timely manner. Elsewhere in the letter, it is mentioned that as of 19 Feb 2009, only 46% of the beekeepers on the existing database had returned their apiary registration forms. The Commissioner indicated that implementation of the law will continue despite the AIAC resolution.

At the April 2009 ESHPA Directors meeting, another resolution was approved unanimously supporting the repeal of the new law and once again urging the Commissioner to suspend its implementation immediately. The Western New York Honey Producers had previously gone on the record opposing the law in 2008.

So, we appear to have a state bureaucracy determined to implement a law that is clearly unpopular among those it claims to serve. Many beekeepers maintain that the amendments are problematic and of slight value to the state's beekeeping industry. They view this law as a public nuisance worthy of abatement. Stay tuned for future developments. In my next column, I will shed some light on why beekeepers oppose the new law and how this opposition has damaged the inspection program. Special thanks go to the Farm Bureau's Jon Tauzel for escorting me through the process whereby a 6 word FB policy position mysteriously morphed into the 110 word Frankenstein in the law books today.

Colony collapse disorder remains problem for Central New York beekeepers

by Debra J. Groom / The Post-Standard Tuesday June 09, 2009, 11:03 PM



Al Dixon, of Granby, checks on his colonies of honey bees. Dixon says he has lost nearly two-thirds of his colonies over the winter because of colony collapse disorder.

The mysterious ailment that has ravaged honeybee colonies around the world still is wreaking havoc for some Central New York beekeepers.

Just ask Al Dixon, of Granby. He lost nearly 40 of his total 60 colonies this winter.



Bees in Central New York

m There were 46,401 bee colonies in the state in 2007, up from 45,850 in 2002.

m In 2007, Central New York was home to 65 bee farms with 5,569 bee colonies.

Source: 2007 Agricultural Census

"I lost more this year than last year, but not as bad as three years ago," said Dixon, who has been a beekeeper for nearly 40 years. He and his

bees make about 10,000 pounds of honey each year.

The culprit to the bees' demise has been dubbed colony collapse disorder. It first was named in 2004 when researchers and beekeepers noticed honeybees flew away from the hives and never returned.

The loss of bees is a concern for anyone who eats because honeybees are used to pollinate many fruits and vegetables.

While one local beekeeper thinks there could be too few bees to meet pollination needs next year, Cornell University associate professor Nicholas Calderone said he isn't sure when shortages will be that bad.

"There is always that risk, given we really don't know what's going on with the bees and there is no good way to control mites (that kill bees)," Calderone said. There is a concern about shortages of all pollinators, including bumblebees and other insects, he said.

Richard Lynck, a beekeeper in Marcellus, said colony collapse is totally different from the normal die-off of bees in the winter. Beekeepers often lose about 10 percent of their bees to starvation and cold.

When bees die, they normally are found dead in the hives or on the ground near the hives. With colony collapse disorder, the bees fly away from the hive and do not return.

The loss of bees did not hurt honey production last year, as the state total actually increased 16 percent from 3.02 million pounds in 2007 to 3.5 million pounds in 2008. The amount of honey made decreased before that, from 4.38 million pounds in 2005 to 3.02 million pounds in 2007.

But still, after all these years, a definitive cause of the disorder hasn't been identified.

"That's the problem -- they haven't defined colony collapse disorder," said William Crowell, a beekeeper in Rome, Oneida County. "It might be mites, the nosema fungus; it might be chemicals."

The problem with bees disappearing began in the 2004-05. Fewer colonies have been lost in the last year or so, say researchers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who found honeybee colonies declined by 29 percent between September 2008 and early April.

But many beekeepers still are suffering huge losses.

Dixon, who runs Snow Valley Honey Farm, said he believes colony collapse is responsible for the loss of his bees because "they go out of the hive and forget where their house is." He thinks the disorder is caused by insecticides.

"Last year, I lost about 50 percent of my colonies and the year before that, it was 75 to 80 percent," Dixon said. He replaces bees each year by making new hives "off my survivors."

Calderone, associate professor of entomology at the Dyce Laboratory for Honey Bee Studies at Cornell, said he believes it's difficult to say New York honeybee losses are from colony collapse.

"We haven't even established what colony collapse disorder is, so it's hard to make a diagnosis that it's CCD causing the problem," Calderone said.

Calderone said he believes the biggest concern for honeybee population is mite infestation.

He said a survey in the July 2007 Bee Journal of 384 beekeepers from 13 states showed total bee colony losses for 2006-07 winter were 31.8 percent. Nationwide, this means about 651,000 to 850,000 colonies of the country's 2.4 million colonies were lost.

But Calderone said the survey showed 25 percent of those

losses were from colony collapse disorder. That means 75 percent of the losses came from mites, he said.

James Doan, a beekeeper in Monroe County and the largest commercial beekeeper in New York State, said this is his last year as a beekeeper. He is losing too much money to keep going.

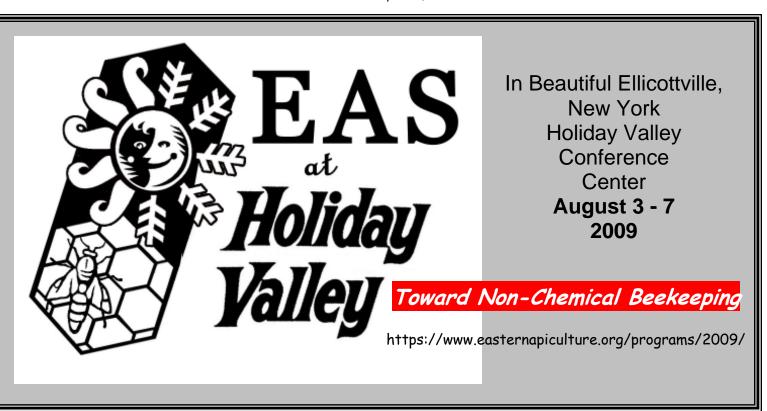
"My bees are supposed to keep me alive," he said, noting he used to make a good living with the bees. "I shouldn't be spending all my money to keep them alive."

Doan, who has been a beekeeper for 41 years, said he has used all his 401(k) and individual retirement account money to keep his business going. He lost 75 percent of his colonies from last fall, going from 2,400 colonies to 600 this spring.

And he's experienced these same type losses each of the last four years. "This is it. As soon as I'm done this year, that's it," he said.

Doan, who has testified about colony collapse disorder before Congress, said he thinks the disorder is much more than bees that fly away and don't come back.

He believes it's any abnormality in the honeybee's behavior. For instance, he said his bees began swarming (a way the colony reproduces itself) in September. Bees normally swarm in May or June. This left many of his colonies with no queens, so the bees left behind died.







Protecting the Interests of New York Beekeepers since 1867

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Address:			Please complete this membership form and send along with a check (Pay To The Order of:
City:	State:	Zip Code:	E.S.H.P.A.) in the amount of \$20 to:
Email:			Hans Junga,
Please send a newsletter to:			Secretary/Treasurer 46527 Co. Rt. 1 Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

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"The Spectator"

CCD in CNY (Central New York)

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