

August 2003

Boulder County Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

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Vice-President: Pat Butler, 303-440-0586

Treasurer: Carol Streamer, 303-442-8491

Boulder County Fair

We will have our booth at the Fair in the usual spot. If you haven't yet signed up to work the booth, contact Jerry McClure (303-772-7092) right away. Due a change in BC Fair rules, Jerry must have volunteer names at least one day ahead for free admission. If you need to change your day or the accompanying person, call Jerry first.

Beekeeping Seminar

Organic Beekeeping Seminar with Gunther Hauk, from Germany

The seminar will be Saturday, **October 18th**, 9am-3pm at Hedgerow Farm, 8328 Valmont Dr, Boulder. This will be a great opportunity to meet and learn from an experienced organic beekeeper. There is a small fee. To enroll and for questions, call the CSU Extension office at 303-776-4865.

BCBA Potluck

If you'd like to mull over the frustrations and joys of the 2003 season with your fellow beekeepers, plan to attend the first annual fall potluck on **Saturday, October 25th** at the Niwot Grange from 5pm to 9pm. This is a chance to share experiences (not a formal business meeting). While organized especially for our newer members, we hope lots of old timers will attend as well. BCBA will provide beverages (sorry, but the Grange doesn't allow alcohol), plates, cups and utensils. Bring something to throw on the grill we'll set up outside, as well as a dish to share. We'd love to see a strong turnout to

justify renting the Grange, so please put it on your calendar now and remember to attend.

Questions? Call Pat Butler (303-440-0586) or Phil Bradbury (303-564-1270).

Hive Happen'ns by Bruce Kelsch

Boy, I can't believe how time has flown by!□
At this time of year I see which hives are producing the most honey.□The ones that are slow are either new swarms or new queens, in which case they are allowed to continue.□The ones that aren't in that category are either queenless or are poor queens.□If they are queenless, I take the frames with bees and place them among 3 or 4 hives so as to make those hives stronger.□Or, if they are just poor queens, I'll say a special prayer and thank them for their previous work, tweak them, and split the brood amongst other hives.□

If you find the queen and wonder if she's old, you can often find her wings rather torn looking, or her wings may be broken. These are signs of old queens.□If she is a virgin queen and not fertilized she'll be laying drone cells.□She will be short and instead of a sleek abdomen she'll have an abdomen that makes her look like she's just fat.□She won't breed so you might as well send her to the happy hunting grounds. **cont. page 2**

Events Calendar

August 2-9 Boulder County Fair
October 18 Organic Beekeeping Seminar
October 25 BCBA Potluck

Hive Happen'ns con't.

If you have surplus honey frames from a queenless hive, instead of combining the frames of bees and honey to another hive, simply shake the bees in front of a chosen hive and then keep the honey frames for your package bees next spring. You accomplish 2 things. First, you aren't taking the chance that there is residual terramycin and fluvalinate added to your honey if you extract honey from a queenless hive that has had exposure to the above chemicals. Secondly, when you get your packages, put a frame or two in the center of the hive body; the queen will have direct access to honey and pollen for her needs, especially if it gets cold and rainy and the workers can't get out of the hive.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful season.
Bruce

The BCBA Website:

www.bouldercountybeekeepers.org

*Join the Beekeepers Net: send a message to
beekeepers-request@village.org*

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