

April 2004

# Boulder County Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

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## Suburban Beekeeping

At our February meeting, Tom Patterson, hobbyist beekeeper from Aurora, covered the events leading up to the adoption of beekeeping regulations in that municipality. It was an interesting talk by a dedicated beekeeper that included how regulations such as these might affect your urban or suburban beekeeping. A handout, "Keeping Bees in Populated Areas" was available; to access this information you can go to <http://MAAREC.cas.psu.edu>

## New Varroa Controls

At our March meeting, Pat Butler talked about two new treatments in the mite-fight: Api-Life Var and Sucroside. You can access this information on our website or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Pat Butler, 4700 N. 47<sup>th</sup> St., Boulder, CO 80301-1746.

## Spring Tasks

If you haven't checked your bees yet – get out there! My bees are already busy collecting pollen and nectar. Here's a list to start with from [The Beekeeper's Handbook](#):

- remove winter insulating protections
- remove entrance reducers & mouse guards
- clean bottom boards
- feed colonies that need it (1:1)
- inspect hives when temps above 75°
- do spring reversal of brood chambers
- watch for signs of swarming – if necessary try control techniques
- mark colonies to be requeened and order them
- replace dark, old, sagging frames and provide new foundation when the nectar flow is on.

## Member Survey

Only 25% of you have returned our survey. But it's not too late. Mail or e-mail it to the address on the form. If you need another copy, contact Pat at [butler@csd.net](mailto:butler@csd.net).

## Membership update

It's not too late to join the club, send your 2004 dues of \$12.50 to Carol Streamer, 1705 14th St. #357, Boulder, CO 80302. Include your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you would like to help us save on postage, you can receive the newsletter via email. Send a note to [june.eakin@earthlink.net](mailto:june.eakin@earthlink.net). If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, tell me and save a tree!

## Summer meetings

Western Apicultural Society's 2004 meeting is in Missoula, MT July 11-14; information on the program and arrangements can be obtained from Jeffy Bromenshenk [beereseach@aol.com](mailto:beereseach@aol.com).

Colorado Beekeepers Association's summer meeting is in Glenwood Springs, June 19th; for information contact Paul Limbach, 970-876-5489.

**Deadline for July newsletter  
July 7, 2004**

**Boulder County Fair  
July 28 – August 7**

## Summer Seminar

Dr. Marion Ellis's U of NE seminar is June 18-19, 2004. from Dr. Ellis,  
"This year we are offering a Value-Added Products Workshop. In 2005, we will offer the Master Beekeeping Workshop again. We have an outstanding program for this summer. (continued next page)

I hope you and your colleagues will join us. You can find information on the summer workshop on the WWW at:  
<http://entomology.unl.edu/beekpg/tidings/btid2004/btdjan2004.htm#Article4>," The workshop will include topics: creamed honey, comb honey, mead and soap production.

*Doyen Mitchell had this to say about the 2003 Master Beekeeping course:*

"A very worthwhile and educational Mid-West Master Beekeeping Workshop was put together by Dr. Marion Ellis of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln on June 26-28, 2003. Subsidized by the University of Nebraska in the spirit of furthering education about beekeeping, Ellis' workshop provided value far beyond the \$85 registration fee. In addition to three days of presentations and demonstrations, the workshop included five meals, a training manual, refreshments and a cap!

The only attendee from Colorado, I arrived at the Nebraska Agricultural research center a tentative novice beekeeper with my starchy new bee suit. Eager to learn more about caring for my three new hives, I found myself among over 40 participants, many of whom had extensive beekeeping experience.

The three mornings were a series of well paced, well organized classroom presentations on a variety of topics from anatomy, pheromones, and diseases, to queen rearing, hive management and mead-making. The afternoons were devoted to hands-on training. I left three days later having observed a virgin queen's first flight, toured a honey house, learned about beeswax candle-making

techniques, watched soaps and lotions being made, tasted a variety of creamed honeys, smelled and observed an American Foulbrood infested hive, and felt the delicate whisper-like touch of scores of swarming bees walking on my bare hand.

In small groups, with compass, protractor and azimuth tables in hand, we practiced dance language interpretation. (If we correctly observed the video of a forager's dance, and followed our calculations, a hidden treasure awaited each group in the nearby fields!) Of the various professional conferences and workshops I have attended, this was perhaps the most well-planned, well-balanced and well run. The variety of presenters and topics, lectures and small group activities, combined with hands-on learning made the 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. days fly by.

Not only do I now know much more about keeping bees, I am also more fully aware of how much I do not know! Although I personally chose not to pursue the Master Beekeeping title at this time, I'm sure more experienced beekeepers would find the process, exercises and service requirements worthwhile. Without reservation I highly recommend Dr. Marion Ellis' program."

## Equipment for sale

I am a beekeeper who must give up the hobby due to an allergy to honey bees. All equipment was originally purchased through the Beekeeper Company, Jerry Webb.

top covers, inner covers, deep supers, new deep frames, queen excluders, entrance reducers, bottom boards, medium supers, medium frames, fume board, asst. nails, hive tool, comb cutter knife, frame grip, bee go, 5 gallon pail with new gate, small bee suit with helmet & veil, new helmet & veil, small gloves, Beekeeping book.

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*The BCBA Website:*

[www.bouldercountybeekeepers.org](http://www.bouldercountybeekeepers.org)

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

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