

July 2004

Boulder County Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

President: Tom Theobald, 303-562-2266 Secretary: Suzanne Connolly, 303-499-0635
Vice-President: Mark Beran, 303-652-2775 Treasurer: Carol Streamer, 720-214-2198

Colorado Wholesale Food License Law

The legislature recently enacted amendments to the 2003 law requiring wholesale food manufacturers (including anyone who produces, packs, processes, transports or stores human food) to register and pay a fee to the Dept of Public Health and Environment.

The original law had no exemptions for small operators, such as hobby and sideline beekeepers. The new law changes the fee structure and exempts food handlers with under \$15,000 in gross annual sales (as well as nonprofit organizations, like food banks, and grain elevator operators) from paying the fee, although these organizations are required to register with the state health department. (The fee levels also were changed: food handlers making over \$150,000 must pay \$305, those with revenue between \$50,000 and \$150,000 pay \$240, and those under \$50,000 pay \$145).

While these amendments exempt most small beekeeping operations from paying the fee, the fee structure itself is still not very progressive or equitable, so that additional amendments might need to be considered next year. Furthermore, the law entitles grain elevators (who pay lobbyists to work on these issues) to a refund of 2003 fees paid, while this refund does not apply to nonprofit organizations or small food handlers. The move to fund more state operations in Colorado through fees (for example, on regulated entities) is not new, but it has grown with the state's budget problems. As recent newspaper articles (such as those reprinted in the latest issue of the CO Beekeepers Association "B Notes") indicate, the state's budget difficulties stem from spending

limitations in the TABOR amendments (which reduce spending during economically lean times but do not allow it to rise when the economy improves), combined with state constitutional spending mandates, such as that for K-12 education.

Consequently, it is unlikely that these fees will disappear unless the state's economy improves and its budgeting situation stabilizes, which some analysts say requires changing these state constitutional provisions.

--Pat Butler

Boulder County Fair

Love to share your love of bees? Be a Bee Ambassador at the Fair. Last year, volunteers received free admission and parking. **Call Jerry McClure at 303-772-7092**, to reserve your date/time at the fair booth.

Fall Potluck & discussion?

Shall we get together in October for a potluck dinner and a Q & A session with a panel of experienced beekeepers? **Contact Pat Butler (butler@csd.net or phone 303-440-0586) before the end of August.** We'll hold it if enough people respond!

**Deadline for October newsletter
September 28, 2004**

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

Sucroside for Varroa

As discussed at the March BCBA meeting, I recently tried using Sucroside spray in 2 hives with elevated varroa levels. An article in the July issue of Bee Culture makes several helpful suggestions about using this product. My observation is that it would be a lot faster and more efficient if done by 2 people (one to move frames and one to spray), especially if you have a hive like one of mine that's easily agitated, where you want to minimize your time with the hive open. I will be very interested to hear the experience of anyone else who uses this product. - Pat Butler

Extractor needed

The honey extractor that the Extension office rents out to beekeepers has been repaired once more but may not last beyond the upcoming season. BCBA has offered to help Extension identify a replacement (extension has some funds collected from the beekeeping classes to replace it). Tom asks that everyone keep an eye out for a good quality used 3 or 4 frame extractor (one not too heavy to be moved around easily).

If you hear of one, please contact Charlie Robinson (303-499-8956), who will check it out.

New agent at CSU Extension

Adrian Card is the new agronomist at the Extension office.

His contact info:

Adrian B. Card

Agriculture/4-H Agent

Colorado State Univ. Cooperative Extension
Boulder County

9595 Nelson Road, Box B

Longmont, CO 80501

(303) 678-6383 office

(970) 420-4428 mobile

(303) 678-6281 fax

Free for the asking

Adrian Card, Boulder County Extension office, needs to get rid of about 5 years of Am. Bee Journal and Bee Culture (1999-2003 and would be happy to give these issues to any interested beekeeper. If no one wants them he'll discard them later this summer.

Synopsis of February meeting

LEFT HAND GRANGE, NIWOT COLORADO

February 10, 2004

NEW BUSINESS

Everyone was encouraged to complete the BCBA survey.

1. Pat Butler reported the need to update Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws to bring these documents into conformity with State and Federal law, and so that they accurately reflect how the organization functions. We will vote on these changes at the March

STOCK SHOW

It was a great year. We had a 90% fulfillment with people who signed up to work the booth. N. Colorado and Jefferson County Beekeepers participated this year. The Booth has a new backdrop,

Need to find someone willing to shadow Harold Scherbensky and how he switches out frames each.

NEWSLETTER

June reported on the status of the newsletter

- Please submit any articles, info you have. - remember that it only comes out 4 times a year so any items for sale do not get posted immediately

NEW TAX

Mark Beran reported on the new Wholesale Food, Manufacturing and Storage Registration Fee. This repressive tax could have devastating consequences on beekeepers.

OFFICERS:

Tom- President George Hansen - Board

Mark Beran - Vice President

Harold Scherbensky - Board

Carol - Treasurer with Tera shadowing

Suzanne Connolly-Howes - Secretary

Pat Butler - Mail list

Andy Schwarz - Web

page

Synopsis of March Meeting

LEFT HAND GRANGE, NIWOT COLORADO

March 9, 2004

- The membership discussed the proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. Minor changes were made and the proposals were voted in.

- Harold Scherbenski has been the observation hive guru for years. Rick Harris, Tom Nangle, Miles McGaughey, Diane Powell and Andy Schwarz expressed interest in shadowing him so that he can soon relinquish those duties to some else.

- Rick Harris reported that we had good participation at the Stock Show this year. Booth improvements are continuing. Want a banner with our website address.

- It has been decided not to hold a picnic this year, as the last few have been so poorly attended. A reminder for people to fill out their BCBA surveys

- Al Summers has taken over as editor for Bee Notes. D paying member of CO Bee Assoc. will receive 4 issues a year. BCBA members need to pay \$3 for the four issues a year.

- West Nile issue is something all beekeepers should follow closely. Important that we let our voices be heard on this issue. Can call the County to request a no-spray zone around a property.

SEMINARS / CLASSES

- Marion Ellis will be giving a class June 18-19 in Mead Nebraska
- Northern CO Beekeepers are trying to put together an Advanced Beekeepers Class

WHOLESALE FOOD TAX

Some information about this issue has been put on the website.

As it stands now they have proposed a regressive and fundamentally flawed system:

- businesses making \$10,00 gross or less would be exempted
- businesses making \$10,000- \$50,000 would be taxed \$150
- businesses making \$50,000 - \$175,000 would be taxed \$175
- businesses making over \$175,000 would be taxed \$300

Could have a detrimental impact on this primarily cottage industry. Everyone is encouraged to get involved. This tax could be a fair, equitable tax if done correctly.

ELECTIONS

Elections were held by acclamation.

Tom- President

George Hansen – Board

Mark Beran – Vice President

Harold Scherbenski - Board

Suzanne Connolly-Howes - Secretary

Pat Butler - in charge of Mail list

Carol Streamer– Treasurer with Tera shadowing

- Miles McGaughey gave members a chance to look at his colony of bumble bees.
- Pat Butler gave a talk on mite control products, and shared an informative handout.

Helpful Hint

If you happen to have an easily agitated hive that gives you dozens of stings in your gloves, scrape them off with your hive tool rather than trying to remove them with your fingers. Even detached stingers can pack a wallop...

The BCBA Website:

www.bouldercountybeekeepers.org

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

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