



HONEY GUIDES

The Newsletter of the
Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association

www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org

July 2011

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION



The PPBA generally meets from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm on the third Thursday of the months of January, April, and July, and from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm the third Thursday in October, which is the Fall Harvest Festival. The location of the meetings is Gateway Presbyterian Church, 731 Castle Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, in their basement meeting room. (As you face the front of the church, the stairway down to the basement meeting room is on the left side of the building.) Meetings are open to the public.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES – 2011

July 21st: General Membership Meeting. Topics will include bee friendly plants and gardens, the upcoming El Paso County Fair and HIVE, part of the Colorado Springs Cross Pollination 2011 effort (see articles in this newsletter about HIVE).

July 23rd – 30th: El Paso County Fair. PPBA will have the Bee Cage with a nuc inside on display.

August: Bee yard visit. Date, time, and location to be announced.

September: Extraction Demo at Bear Creek Nature Center. Date and time to be announced.

October 20th: Fall Harvest Festival. Pot Luck dinner, and honey competitions; and election of officers.

BOARD MEMBER NEWS

Paul Peterson resigned his PPBA Board membership and his position as PPBA Librarian due to personal reasons. "Thank you, Paul" for your service to PPBA, especially in getting the library organized!

Ione Friedly was appointed by the PPBA Board to finish Paul's Board Member term and Ava Fuqua is our new Librarian. Thanks to both Ione and Ava for stepping up!

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

WANTED: EL PASO COUNTY FAIR HELP! Can you spare a couple of hours to help represent PPBA at the El Paso County Fair in Calhan July 23 - 30? The cage with nuc will be on display and we'll be giving short presentations about bees and beekeeping several times a day. If you can help out, let Mike Halby know at the July General Membership meeting.

(What's the Buzz continued next page)

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (continued)

WANTED: HONEY JUDGES! We need a couple of honey judges to help John Hartley during the Fall Harvest Festival honey competitions. This would be a great opportunity to learn what honey judges are looking for when you enter your frames and/or honey in the El Paso Fair or the State Fair competitions. If you're interested in helping out – contact Mike or Sandy Halby or John Hartley.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TIME AND FORMAT!! The first half hour (6:30-7:00) of the January, April and July PPBA General Membership meetings will be reserved for socializing and general questions with mentors and other PPBA members. The formal portion of the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm and will include association business and the presentations for that meeting. There will be time for questions during the formal portion of the meeting but those questions should be limited to the topics being discussed.

PPBA WEB SITE!! Please visit www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org to see our web-site. The web-site features meeting information and calendar, newsletters, photos, library listing and beekeeping links. There's also a page for members to advertise "For Sale" or "Wanted" beekeeping equipment and beekeeping items. If you have a favorite beekeeping link, please let Mike or Sandy know about it so they can include a link from our web-site.

MENTORING!! Your PPBA beekeeper mentors are annotated on the membership roster. If you need help or have questions, please contact one of our volunteer mentors!

MAGAZINES!! If you have old American Bee Journal or Bee Culture magazines (or other bee-oriented literature) that you might want to get rid of, please bring them to the membership meeting and set them out for others to look at and take.

BEAR DAMAGE!! If you have bear or wildlife damage to your hive, contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife at www.wildlife.state.co.us for information about filing a claim.

REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The PPBA Board of Directors conducted a review and update of our association's constitution and by-laws. It was passed by a majority of members present at the April 2011 General Membership meeting.

As a recap, the Constitution changes were very minor – the "major" change was to make the President, instead of the immediate Past President, the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The immediate Past President will still be a Board member but will only be allowed to vote at Board meetings in case of a tie.

The PPBA did not previously have formal By-Laws. The new By-Laws outline some unique activities and duties (such as treasury audit, extractor rental, webmaster, etc) that are not covered in the current Constitution.

If you'd like a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws, contact Mike Halby.



CROSS POLLINATION 2011

AREA ART INSTITUTIONS TO CELEBRATE POLLINATORS

by Monica Mendoza (reprinted here with author's permission)

Six Colorado Springs arts institutions are celebrating pollinators – bees, birds and moths – with a series of events known as Cross Pollination 2011.

(Cross Pollination 2011 continued next page)

CROSS POLLINATION 2011 (continued)

It's the first collaboration of its kind in the area and aims to spark a community discussion about pollinators, said Daisy McConnell, co-director of the Galleries of Contemporary Art at University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. *(continued next page)*

Pollinators are a hot topic right now as people move toward urban gardens, and explore the bigger issue of colony collapse disorder, a phenomenon of disappearing honey bees.

Together the six art institutions will present art exhibits, film screenings, tastings, performances, workshops and other creative events to celebrate and elevate awareness of the crucial role pollinators play in human culture and existence, she said.

The six collaborators are: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center; Downtown Studio Art Gallery at Pikes Peak Community College; Galleries of Contemporary Art at UCCS; The I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College; Marmalade at Smokebrush Gallery; and Stargazer's Theatre and Event Center in collaboration with Amber Coté.

Pollinators include insects and animals that facilitate reproduction in 90 percent of the world's flowering plants. It's estimated that, on average, one in every three bites of food humans take comes courtesy of an animal pollinator.

The exhibits, films and art will show the world's interconnectedness with pollinators, including how to support them in the backyard and on a global scale.

"We are really aiming to raise awareness in a celebratory way," McConnell said.

"Cross-Pollination 2011 is inspired by science and is at its heart a creative celebration of pollinators," she said. "Artists, filmmakers, dancers, and curators translate difficult data into impassioned expressions of why we should all care about pollinators in our community, ultimately inspiring action through the public's experience of that expression."

Below are links to this article and the Cross Pollination project. We'll also be e-mailing event notifications to PPBA members.

<http://csbj.com/2011/07/15/area-art-institutions-to-celebrate-pollinators/>

<http://crosspollinationcollab.com>

Bee Happy Hour, Vanishing of the Bees Movie and Q&A Panel (part of Cross Pollination 2011)

As part of the Cross Pollination 2011 project, there's an evening of bee-related events scheduled for August 24th at the Stargazers Theater (10 South Parkside Drive, Colorado Springs). The fun starts at 5:00 pm with the "Bee Happy Hour" (featuring Bristol Beehive Beer, mead, information booths, bee products, etc), then at 6:00 pm, showing of the film "Vanishing of the Bees" (a documentary about the decline of honeybees that was filmed around the world). After the film, there will be a Question & Answer session with representatives from several organizations.

If you'd be interested in participating in the panel, contact Sandy or Mike Halby.

HIVE (part of Cross Pollination 2011)

"HIVE celebrates and investigates the important role honeybees play in human culture, history, food production, and ecosystems through the lens of visual art. Five artists have been invited to explore the impact of this vital insect through sculptural and video installations and encaustic (beeswax) paintings. HIVE will expand beyond the gallery with bee-related film-screenings, urban homesteading demos, and a truly unique Honey & Mead tasting event. Part of a city-wide celebration of pollinators in Fall 2011 called CROSS-POLLINATION"

Here's is a link to the HIVE project. www.uccs.edu/goca/ART/FUTURE/HIVE

TREASURY & MEMBERSHIP REPORT



As of 12 July 2011, the PPBA banking accounts have a total balance of \$5929.67. PPBA annual dues are \$15.00 per family (non-prorated, payable by cash or check by March 31st each year).



PPBA currently has 183 members: 175 General Members and 8 “comp’d” members, such as Bear Creek and Fountain Creek Nature Centers, a few CBA officers and Colorado State Agriculturists.



If you received this Honey Guides newsletter in snail-mail – either we have an incorrect e-dress for you or do not have an e-dress listed on our roster. We are trying to send out the newsletters (and any other PPBA information) via e-mail, as it really saves PPBA money. Currently, each mailed newsletter cost about \$1 for copying and postage. If you have an e-dress we can use, please let Sandy or Mike know. Also, if your e-dress has changed, please e-mail mandshalby@comcast.net so we can update the membership roster!

PPBA OFFICERS

Office	Name	Tele Number Area Code (719)	E-mail
President	Bruno Mattedi	687-8792	Brunom95_8@msn.com
Vice President	Kim Gravestock	632-0075	florador@live.com
Immediate Past President	John Hartley	495-1251	beeman20@q.com
Treasurer (and Membership)	Sandy Halby	528-5483	mandshalby@comcast.net
Secretary	Mike Halby	528-5483	mandshalby@comcast.net
Board Members	Ione Friedley ('12) Mike Daetwyler ('13) Steve Hench ('14)	332-2884 594-4990 579-9788	drjandifriedly@sprintmail.com mikedaet@pcisys.net shavanomt@comcast.net
Extractor Rental	Dawn Shelstad	683-7683	dawn@elpasotel.net
Bee School Coordinator	Kim Gravestock	632-0075	florador@live.com
Webmaster	Mike & Sandy Halby	528-5483	mandshalby@comcast.net
Swarm Control Coordinator	Mike Halby	528-5483	mandshalby@comcast.net
Library	Ava Fuqua	579-8390	avafuqua@comcast.net
Hospitality	Peggy Christensen	481-1046	cpchriste@earthlink.net
County Fair Coordinator	John Hartley	495-1251	beeman20@q.com
Honey Judges	John Hartley	495-1251	beeman20@q.com



BEE POETRY

THE HONEY LOVER *(Author unknown)*

I eat my peas with honey,
I've done it all my life,
It makes my peas taste funny,
But it keeps them on my knife.

A SWARM *(Author unknown)*

A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay
A swarm of bees in June
Is worth a silver spoon
But a swarm in July
Is not worth a fly.

BEEKEEPERS' CALENDAR *(Reprinted with permission of Bee Culture Magazine)*

JUL	The BIG summer meetings are really moving around this year...off shore, different times and interesting places. HAS is back in Vincennes, Indiana this year, celebrating a decade of service to beekeepers. Greg Hunt has a spectacular program lined up. Check it all out at www.heartlandbees.com . EAS moves to July this year, and to Providence Rhode Island. Find out all about it at www.easternapiculture.org . Ocean cruises, lots of bees, lots of speakers and lots of fun, as always, at EAS. President Everett Zurlinden and Program Chair Kim Flottum have some great things cooking. And WAS goes way off shore, all the way to Hawaii this year. It's on the Big Island at the Prince Resorts. President Antonie Botes, at beehivehawaii@gmail.com has all the information on hotels, reduced airline flights and more. If the Pacific Ocean is in your plans this summer...this is the place to bee.
AUG	Perhaps you have harvested once or more than once by now, so what shape is your extracting equipment in, and how's that garage or basement doing for moving supers into and out of, and is that hand uncapper getting real, real old by now? Upgrading your harvesting equipment can be expensive, but think of the time you will save, the backaches you won't have and the help you won't need if you upgrade? Don't let your drone comb get forgotten. Watch for skunks about now, and keep those weeds down. Watch for feeding, queenlessness...and mites.
SEP	This month is the latest you can check for varroa and get treatments in before it's too late to protect those winter bees. REMEMBER - TAKE CARE OF THE BEES THAT TAKE CARE OF THE BEES THAT GO INTO WINTER. A damaged house bee can't take care of larvae the way she should, so those she is responsible for aren't healthy when they finally emerge and they are the bees that are supposed to live long and winter. If they are damaged, they don't live long enough, and you end up with a dead colony next spring. When harvesting this month separate light color frames from darker color frames. Two kinds of summer honey are better than 1 bland blend. Do the last drone brood check.



BEEES ON THE INTERNET

Here's some links to web-sites that contain information or entertainment about bees, beekeeping, and honey. There are more links on our own web-page, too.



Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association: www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org

Colorado State Beekeepers Assn (CSBA): www.coloradobeekeepers.org

The National Honey Board: <http://www.honey.com>

The Honey Locator: www.honeylocator.com. The Honey Locator is a service provided by the National Honey Board. It's a database-driven Web site which allows you to search for honey and honey suppliers in many different ways.

Bee Culture magazine is at www.bee-culture.com and Bee Journal magazine is at: www.dadant.com/journal

University of Minnesota Bee Lab: www.extension.umn.edu/honeybees/index.html Dr. Marla Spivak and Gary Reuter have a great web-site, full of super links, on-line courses and information.

Randy Oliver's web-site is: www.scientificbeekeeping.com

And, general information for beekeepers is: www.beesource.com

WHEN IT'S HOT

By: Kim Flottum

Both bees and beekeeper need to be careful when it's really hot outside.

The cold, wet Spring we suffered through a bit ago seems to have left no residue, and as usual Summer is again generally hot. Maybe not really, really hot where you are, and maybe not as hot as it was once ago, but most everywhere it is hot nevertheless. You and I have some options though. We can go inside where the air conditioning is set on freeze to escape the heat, the humidity, the bugs (the other bugs), and the sweat-in-your-eyes discomfort that reigns outside. Or at the very least we can sit in the shade somewhere with a cold towel and a cool drink with lots of ice to ease the burden of the day.

I am always amused, maybe amused isn't the right word, but it works for now, at how soon we forget that other discomfort . . . the bitter cold of last Winter, the knife-sharp wind freezing unprotected ears, legs frozen stiff because our city pants aren't made for anything like this, and red, raw wrists exposed when cleaning yet another six or seven inches of snow off the car window in the late afternoon dark after work. I am, however, definitely not amused when I think of the cost of keeping that propane tank out back full of gas all Winter long. Forgetting all that misery isn't all that hard after all I guess.

But it's a hot Summer time now . . . for you and me, and for the bees. And good beekeepers work hard at keeping cool when working bees. Dehydration, heat exhaustion and certainly heat stroke should definitely not be on the to-do list when working bees in the Summer time. And, with the added emphasis of keeping your bees in full sun to help with both *Varroa* and small hive beetle control, setting bees where there is that dappled afternoon shade isn't as common as it once was.

The best thing to do is to not work your bees during the hottest part of the day. That's a big 'duh' factor if you can swing your schedule that way, but most of us don't have the luxury of perfect timing and we work bees when we can, not when it's perfect.

So let's start with keeping the beekeeper cool. Small things make a difference.

For instance. A jacket with an attached hood that has solid cloth in the back of the hood is nice because it keeps the sun off your neck and head, but it offers no ventilation. This is the gear I wear in early and later season, but when it starts to get hot I switch to a cooler veil. I use one that loops under my arms and has netting all the way around. I take the hood off my regular beesuit and as a result don't have to zip up the front zipper all the way, keeping the neck open a bit. Between warm air rising and escaping all the way around the neck, and the back of my head open to the breeze, I stay comfortable. The white netting in back blocks most of the sun so I'm exposed to neither hot sun, nor UV rays. And the single layer hat is cooler than the hood and baseball cap combo I have to wear under the hood to keep the veil off my face.

I'll wear this when it's warm, but when it gets warmer I'll make some changes.

With the jacket and veil combo I can easily add a cool, damp, even wet towel around my neck and with this particular veil easily and quickly exchange it with another when it is used up. With my sleeves pushed up, and since I seldom wear gloves this outfit is certainly safe and it keeps me clean and pretty cool . . . but I still have on a substantial jacket.

Hotter yet? Ok, off with the jacket already. I have a simple white shirt, obtained at a Good-Will store for a couple of dollars that replaces the jacket. It's lighter weight material, the sleeves roll up easily, it isn't as long and it is much, much cooler. When coupled with the removable veil, this outfit is almost as cool as you can get, and still keeps me reasonably clean, with good, but not perfect protection from anxious bees if I have a cotton t-shirt underneath. Of course if you are unsure of what you are doing or you end up doing some heavy duty work, anxious bees can be an issue. I always have heavier protection close-by if needed.

But let's face it – when it is really, really hot – well, when it's that hot you probably shouldn't be in the bees anyway because they aren't out foraging because plants have shut down nectar production. When it's that hot and I just have to be in the bees, it's down to a t-shirt and light veil. I have pants of very light-weight material I wear for most all of the Summer because I always wear something on my legs – not so much for the bees because they seldom bother my legs, but rather because of the time I spend on my knees fixing things, sparks from the smoker when lighting, walking through weeds to and from the beeyard, and moving supers while examining bees. It's just easier for me to have some level of protection on my legs all the time, hot or not.

Some beekeepers work this keeping cool thing in reverse, wearing little, or nothing, under a full beesuit. I haven't traveled that road yet, simply because my beeyards aren't very isolated and . . . well . . . you just never know when an errant nail will catch that pocket flap and suddenly it's very cool. I'll let those with a tad more exhibitionist character keep cool that way.

But there are other tricks. Being wet is one. One beekeeper I know always jumped in his backyard swimming pool before he went working bees. He wore a full suit and though cool, it was heavy. But it worked. You can just soak a shirt, that wet towel I mentioned, a wet handkerchief as a sweatband – anything you wear that's wet will cool you as the water evaporates – and if it's that hot, you'll be that wet anyway from the sweat you produce. But try a wet t-shirt once in awhile . . .

There are companies that make things to wear specifically to keep you cool. Ice packets in pockets, cold water inside vests, even helmets with solar powered fans exist that fit in your helmet to keep your head cool.

The most important thing to NOT overlook is staying hydrated. If you're out for any period of time – say more than 20 minutes, stop, relax, find some shade and take a long drink of water – not soda, ice tea or beer. Water. Every 15 minutes take another drink – at least six ounces, eight better, and 12 if you can. If, like me, you perspire freely, take something to replace those lost electrolytes. Most of us don't do this on a routine basis, and the physical energy gets kicked up a couple of notches when you are working hard and it's hot. And just being a little bit nervous adds another dimension to the event.

But what about your bees?

Start with water. Lots of it in the Summer time. Minimum, a quart a day per colony. Maximum, *a gallon a day*. For every colony out there. Think of how much that is for 10 colonies for a week of hot, hot weather. That's four, five gallon pails full of water, minimum, and more than a honey barrel full of water max, in just a week. And they will get that water somewhere. The closer the better. The easier the better. The safer the better.

If you're lucky you have a nearby Spring, river, lake or pond. Lakes and rivers are great, if there's not a lot of people traffic nearby wading, fishing, or boating. But smaller bodies of water . . . puddles, creeks and ponds can be problematic during hot Summers because they tend to go dry, right about the time the bees need them most. Keeping an ample supply of fresh water just for your bees is a no-brainer that we far too often overlook. So first, make that happen. How? Good question.

If you don't have that pond, consider making one near your bees if possible. A small, continuously filled fish pond is ideal. Installing an automatic filler is necessary, and being able to disconnect it in the Winter is also necessary, but it's a good first choice. If that's not in the cards . . . if you are on a roof for instance, a smaller version of this is possible, that is, a self-filling livestock watering device can work and is a good idea. They don't go dry because a float valve turns on when the water level falls below a preset point and refills the water holder (just like the pond). Of course you have to have a dedicated water line to that device – and a flexible garden-type hose doesn't work as well as a pvc pipe, so there's that hitch to get over, but it's possible.

JULY'S FEATURE ARTICLE (continued)

A slow drip faucet works, but remember – a gallon a day per hive – it better not be too slow. Pails, pools, stock tanks, barrels – anything that holds water, enough water works. But the smaller the container, the more you have to fill it the more likely it will go dry on just the day the bees need it most. And once dry, they go somewhere else . . . bird baths, swimming pools, pet bowls, air conditioner drains . . . lot of places you don't want a bunch of bees. Bees need water and will get it somewhere. You don't let your dog, cat, chickens or other animals go without water . . . why your bees?

Then, ventilation inside the hive. Screened bottom boards have taken a roller coaster ride in popularity during the past few years. More than 120 years ago, A. I. Root suggested, and then made for sale screened bottom boards for his hives expressly for better ventilation. He used window mesh screen because he wasn't worried about *Varroa* or other creatures, he just wanted fresh air inside.

Langstroth was insistent on having fresh air inside his hives and made certain there were many and large openings for air to go bottom to top and escape rapidly. But then, he did the same with his houses and churches and other buildings. Fresh air was important. It still is.

For your bees, use screened bottom boards in the Summer for their ventilation benefits, and make sure there is escape above for all that warm, moist air to rise and release. If you use inner covers or crown boards, raise them up so air can move up. Lift up the cover, too, for even better air movement. The bees will guard the cracks and crevices you create, and you can always reduce them if you think robbing might be a problem . . . and it might if it is so hot that the plants have quit producing and scout bees find a weak hive to plunder.

Some beekeepers make sure each box has one less frame – nine for 10 frame, seven for eight frame, to widen just a bit the gap between frames to assist air movement – not a bad idea, especially if you have seen hives so hot the wax melts. That is not a pretty sight.

Some beekeepers go so far as to offset supers, leaving a one inch gap or so, so hot air can escape from every super and not have to travel all the way to the top of the stack. Bees will guard these entrances, and even in very rainy weather little water will get in the hive, and then, it will simply run out the front door. The increased

ventilation these gaps allow more than makes up for this small inconvenience.

If your climate is so hot, so very hot that sitting in the afternoon sun rises the temperature to wax softening conditions, then afternoon sun, *Varroa* or small hive beetles notwithstanding, should be avoided – that dappled afternoon shade isn't all bad.

And better ventilation is good for other things than just being cool. Think honey dehydration – you need to stay hydrated, but your bees want to dehydrate all that honey they're bringing in. And if warm, moist air can't readily escape, it takes more bees fanning to get it dry, and until it's dry there's less room to store incoming nectar – it's a downward spiral from the bees' perspective...so give 'em room, give 'em ventilation, and give 'em enough water to get them through another hot, hot Summer.

When it's hot outside, make sure you are juiced up and ready to sweat, have more water on hand, and be prepared to take off a bit of that beesuit to keep going. And make sure your bees are as cool as they can be in that hive out there. They need water, and they need to be cool as much as you do. Don't let your Summer bees die of thirst, or worse, over heat when the sun shines. Keep cool.

Mike & Sandy Halby
6066 Del Rey Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918-1758
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Annual dues - \$15 (Make check payable to: Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association.)

Mail to: Sandy Halby, PPBA Treasurer
6066 Del Rey Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918-1758

Phone: 719-528-5483
e-mail: mandshalby@comcast.net