



THE

APIARY NEWS



A publication of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association

The President's Message

By Mary Duane

As I reflect on the summer that has just passed and get ready for the beautiful colors of a New England fall, I am saddened to share with you that news that the WCBA lost a landmark member with the passing of Alden Abbott this past August. Alden represented all that is special about beekeeping and the WCBA. He was a former WCBA President, member of the board of directors, and speaker at bee school. When I first joined the club, Alden was very gracious in answering my very basic questions. I will miss his gentle manner, witty sense of humor and friendship. I feel very fortunate to have had our paths cross through beekeeping. The tiny honeybee has lost a wonderful friend.

I would like to thank all the people who made the Spencer Fair such an outstanding success both financially and educationally. This is one of the WCBA's biggest club activities and it would not have happened without the help of a large number of dedicated club members. Thanks to all who gave of their honey products, precious time and talents. Hopefully, we all helped to inspire another generation of beekeepers.

There are many outstanding programs lined up for the next several monthly meetings. The WCBA is co-sponsoring the Mass Bee Meeting

and Honey Show on Saturday October 17th. The keynote speaker is Dr. Marla Spivak from the University of Minnesota. She is an outstanding national speaker and we are thrilled to have her speak. She will speak on Propolis & Bee Health and a novel way to monitor varroa mites. Our second speaker is Wellesley College Professor Heather Mattila who will speak on Genetic Diversity, Dancing and Foraging of the Honey Bee.

In closing, I hope to see you all at the annual Thanksgiving Banquet and Holiday Party (details inside). These events are wonderful opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of club members and socialize with your bee friends. I encourage the new members to come and join in the fun. Beekeepers are the best.



photo by Mike Standing

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HIVE IRRADIATION PROGRAM

Do you have beekeeping equipment that might be infected with **American Foulbrood**?

Our yearly irradiation program will be available once again in the spring of 2010. This is an effective way of killing all of the spores without damaging your equipment, including frames with wax foundation.

Please contact **George O'Neil at 978-355-2442** if you are interested. The cost and date has not been established yet.

Directions to the Leicester Knights of Columbus

Monthly Meetings and many of the **Special Events** of the WCBA are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Manville Street, in Leicester, Massachusetts.

From Webster Square in Worcester, follow Route 9 West, a major road, into Leicester. 2 miles from the town line turn right onto Manville Street, just after Entwhistle's Garage.

From the Spencer or Leicester area, follow Route 9 East. Turn left onto Mannville Street just before Entwhistle's Garage. The Entrance to the Knights of Columbus Hall will be on your left within 1/2 mile on Mannville Street.

2010 WCBA HONEY QUEEN APPLICATION

The WCBA is searching for a honey queen to represent us for the upcoming year. She will represent us at the Spencer Fair, the Flower Show and at the Bee School. This position does not take a tremendous amount of effort and is a great experience for any lady who would like to represent us educating the public about honeybees, honey and other related products. PLEASE APPLY with the form below. Ken Warchol will be in touch with you.

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Candidates must be at least 16 years old with no upper age limit

Please mail this form by **October 25th** to: Ken Warchol, 372 Cooper Road, Northbridge, MA 01534

“Working With the Bees” *By Armand Provost*

This has been the worst summer ever since I started beekeeping in 1973. The weather was awful all season long and the honey supers never filled up. Very little honey was taken from each hive. In early spring I thought that we were going to have a great year. At the time the weather was just right to start a good honey flow. Then it happened the rest of the summer was rainy, cold, and cloudy so the bees just didn't get out that much. The end of August looked good for about a week and a half but then turned bad again. Just after this happened warm weather came back again and the bees after being in the hives and not working much finally came out and were ready to get anything they could especially if it was free. What I mean by free, I had one weak hive and in no time at all it started getting robbed out and bees were flying all over the place. It only took one day and the weak hive was all gone. Out in front of the hive on the ground were many dead bees from the robbing. When I took the hive apart it was bone dry and not a single bee anywhere, just a few dead ones on the bottom screen board. If I didn't see the robbing I would of thought for sure it was a case of C.C.D., which we have been hearing so much about. To calm things down I put winter blocks on the other hives so the small opening would allow the guard bees less space to watch for robber bees and protect their hive. Finally after a day or so things were back to normal. Another 2 days and the medication went on.

For all our new beekeepers in the club, don't worry too much about this year if the honey yield wasn't so good. They'll be many excellent years to come and of course a few bad ones in between. I'm hoping most of you did well with new packages and the bees built up strong for you. Remember come to the club's monthly meetings and for sure you'll learn new ways to manage your hives.

See you at the meetings.

I'll leave you with another saying:

LOOK FEAR IN THE FACE AND IT WILL CEASE TO TROUBLE YOU.

In Memory of Alden Abbott



Alden W. Abbott, former president and long time member of WCBA, passed away on August 21, 2009. Alden was WCBA president from 1987-1991, Beekeeper of the Year in 1992, and a Bee School speaker until 2007. He was an active member of the WCBA Board of Directors into 2009. He will be remembered for his great kindness and generosity, and for his visit to Buckfast Abbey in England, the origin of the Buckfast honeybees.

The WCBA cookbook will be dedicated in his memory.

2009 Spencer Fair Results

Honey Show

Best of Show Honey: Peter Niemi, two 1-lb. jars of amber honey

Shallow Extracting Frame

Norman Mercier 1st
Peter Niemi 2nd

Shallow Cut Comb Frame

Peter Niemi 1st

Full Depth Frame of Honey

Peter Niemi 1st

2 Jars of Light Honey

Todd Girouard 1st
Martha Varnot 2nd
Claude Booth 3rd

2 Jars of light Amber Honey

Richard Callahan 1st
Todd Girouard 2nd
Dianna Provencher 3rd

2 Jars of Amber Honey

Peter Niemi 1st
Mary Duane 2nd
Norman Mercier 3rd

2 Jars of Dark Amber Honey

Peter Niemi 1st
Michele Decouteau 2nd
Martha Varnot 3rd

2 Jars of Dark Honey

Peter Niemi 1st

2 jars of Chunk Honey

Kathy Degraaf 1st

Articles made of Beeswax

Michael Donovan 1st
Cynthia Donovan 2nd
John Ostrosky 3rd

Pair of Beeswax Candles-molded

Claude Booth 1st
John Ostrosky 2nd

Pair of Beeswax Candles-dipped

Claude Booth 1st

2-lb Piece of Beeswax

Claude Booth 1st
Peter Niemi 2nd

Creamed Honey

Kathleen Keohane 1st

Cooking

Best of Show Cooking: Pat Sevigney, Quick Bread one loaf

Dozen Crisp Honey Cookies

Diana Provencher 1st

Dozen Soft Honey Cookies

Marie Bugbee 1st
Patricia Sevigney 2nd

Dozen Honey Bars or Brownies

Marie Bugbee 1st
Patricia Sevigney 2nd

One Honey Cake

Pat Sevigney 1st

One Honey Yeast Bread

Jim Wuelfing 1st
Patricia Sevigney 2nd

Quick Bread One Loaf

Patricia Sevigney 1st
Diana Provencher 2nd

Pie

Pat Sevigney 1st

Live Bee Exhibit

Mike Standing 1st

Still Mead 1 bottle

Pat Sevigney 1st
Roland Sevigney 2nd

Beer Made with Honey – 2 bottles

Christopher Callahan 1st

State Agricultural Show Award:

Peter Niemi, 2 jars Amber Honey

WCBA Monthly Meetings

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Thanksgiving Banquet

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2009 6:00 pm

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall, Leicester, MA

Speaker: Paul Split

Topic: Herbs for All Seasons

The Annual Thanksgiving Banquet is a time to reflect on the summer's harvest and thank our bees for what they have done for us. We will start the Thanksgiving meal at 6 P.M. with fresh turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad, dessert and coffee or tea. This will be followed by presentations for Beekeepers of the Year, Honey Queen, Spencer Fair Award Winners, Bee Smoker Champion, Best Management Awards, and Appreciation Awards. We will then have our speaker. Paul Split is a horticulturist and consultant. Paul's talk will be Herbs for All Seasons. He will talk on what herbs to plant throughout the seasons and how to use them in our cooking giving examples. This will be followed by our raffle for Thanksgiving Baskets and other items brought in by club members. The club will provide the four Thanksgiving Baskets. We ask members to bring items for our raffle such as wines, craft items, farm products, bee equipment or gift certificates. The children will receive a special presentation as usual. I encourage all members to join us for this special event. We would like to see you there to honor all of our winners.

The cost for this year's banquet will be \$15/adult, \$7/child (ages 6-12), ages 5 & under free. Please see reservation form on page 7.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

WCBA Annual Christmas Party

Date: Saturday December 5, 2009 5 PM

Place: Leo's Ristorante

11 Brackett Court (off Shrewsbury Street)

Worcester, MA

Speaker: Bee Talk and Socialization of Club Members

This is a low key event where club members can wine and dine for the evening and kick off the Holiday Season. We are returning again to Leo's Ristorante in Worcester. We will have cocktails from 5-6P.M. which will include appetizer platters of veggies and cheese. This will be followed by the buffet meal which includes:

Antipasto, meatballs, sausage/peppers/onions, eggplant parmesan, chicken marsala, chicken and broccoli, sliced roast beef, rolls and butter, dessert, and coffee/tea.

This will be followed by a raffle for two \$50 gift certificates to Better Bee. We will also have a gift exchange following the meal. Please bring a gift for a male or female with a value up to 10 dollars to exchange. Mark it male or female or both. The cost for the meal will again be \$20.00 including tax and tip — see reservation form on page 7.

This is a chance to talk bees or about other things to your heart's content. We hope to see you all there on that evening.

WCBA Monthly Meetings, cont'd

Friday, January 8, 2010

Time: 6:30 PM
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall
 Leicester, MA
Speaker: Ed Karle
Topic: Beekeeping in China,
 Haiti, France, and other
 countries of the world

Ed is President of the Norfolk County Beekeepers. He is a frequent traveler to many countries throughout the world. He will do an audio visual presentation on how beekeeping is done in various countries throughout the world. This will be an excellent and interesting presentation for the entire family. It will follow our potluck supper, which will start at 6:30 **sharp**. Come out and bring a dish big enough to serve 10 people, based on the first letter of your last name:

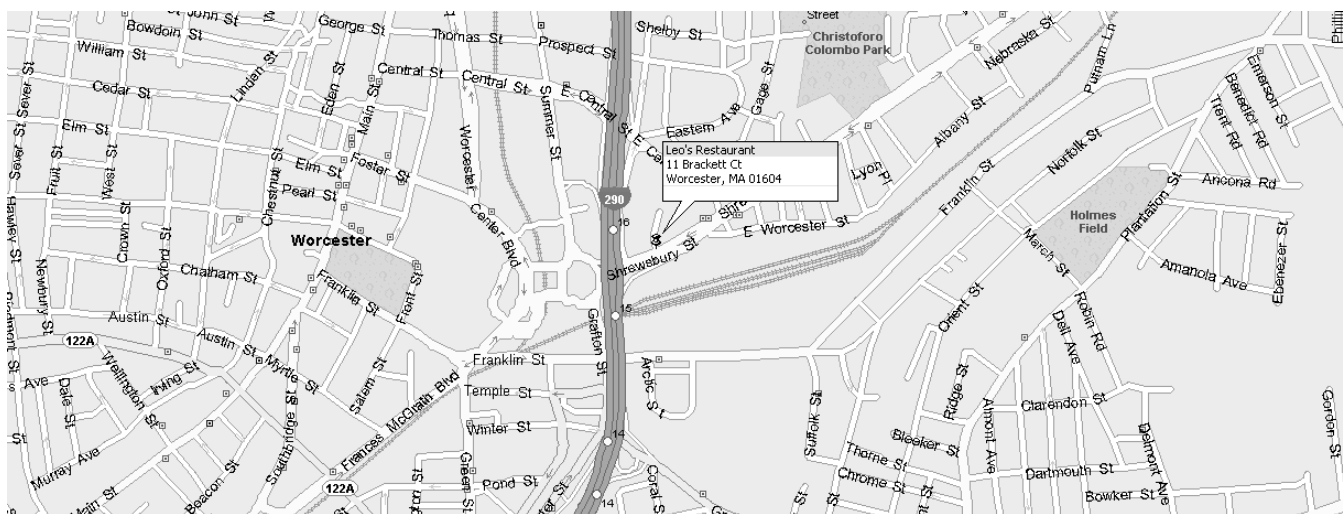
A-I — vegetable J-R — dessert S-Z — main course

Directions to Leo's Ristorante (WCBA Christmas Party)

From 290 West: Take Exit #16 (E. Central Street). At the light, take a left. Take the first right into Mount Carmel Church parking lot. Leo's is located on the left.

From 290 East: Take Exit #16 (Central Street). At the light take a right. Take the first right into Mount Carmel Church parking lot. Leo's is located on the left.

From Route 9 West: After U. Mass Hospital, at the next set of lights bear left onto Shrewsbury Street for approximately 2 miles. Take a right into Brackett Court. Leo's is located on the left.



WARNING: Beekeepers should be very careful when buying used equipment or hives from other beekeepers. It could be diseased. We have had several such incidents this year. You should call Ken Warchol, the apiary inspector at 508-234-6833 before making such purchases in order to get it checked. Better be safe than sorry!

2009 WCBA Thanksgiving Banquet Reservation Form

Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Knights of Columbus Hall, Leicester, MA
Dinner is served at 6:00 PM

Number of people	Cost	Total
_____ Adults (13 and older)	\$15.00 each	_____
_____ Children (ages 6-12)	\$7.00 each	_____
_____ Children (5 and younger)	FREE *	_____
	TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____

*be sure to count all younger children so that we may order food enough for each guest.

Send your reservation payment to the Treasurer by October 25, 2009. Make checks payable to W.C.B.A. and mail to:

George O'Neil
658 Sunrise Avenue
Barre, MA 01005

FROM:

NAME _____
 STREET _____
 CITY,ST,ZIP _____
 PHONE _____

2009 WCBA Christmas Party Reservation Form

Saturday, December 5, 2009 at Leo's Ristorante, Worcester (see p. 6 for directions)

Dinner this year will be \$20 per person including tax and tip.

NUMBER ATTENDING = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

Please send your payment by November 20, 2009. Make checks payable to W.C.B.A. and mail to:

George O'Neil
658 Sunrise Avenue
Barre, MA 01005

FROM:

NAME _____
 STREET _____
 CITY,ST,ZIP _____
 PHONE _____

Worcester County
Beekeepers Association
c/o Mary Duane
89 Blithewood Avenue
Worcester, MA 01604

THE APIARY NEWS
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Worcester County Beekeepers Association

First Class
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HONEY
NATURALLY

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“ BEES PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT THE BEES”

Fall 2009

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is published quarterly by the
WORCESTER COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee and Board of Directors

!!!!NOTICE!!!!

If the expiration date is

2009 or earlier

On the address label, this will
be your last newsletter!
Which means you need to
renew your membership!

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Feel free to contact any of the above directors or committee chairs with questions relating to the Worcester County Beekeepers' Association or beekeeping in general. The APIARY NEWS is published quarterly by the Worcester County Beekeepers Association for its members. All submissions are welcome and should be sent to:

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<http://HoneyBeeClub.org>

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