

# THE HIVE TOOL

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## **President Frame**

Summer fades. The days are crisp and bright, the nights chilly and clear.

There is nothing like the blue autumn sky when a Canadian cold front moves through. Beekeepers notice things like that.

I had a chance to do some reading last week as I sat for several days in the Jury Assembly Room of the York County Courthouse. I was happy to do my civic duty (I did serve on one jury trial), but there was A LOT of time to sit and read. So I picked up a book called *The Hive - The Story of the Honeybee and Us* - by Bee Wilson (yes, that's her name - a British food critic). It is well written and a good book about bees, honey and beekeeping. Her interests are wide-ranging and she pulls a lot of semi-related topics together with ease. This is how she characterizes beekeepers: "Most beekeepers that one meets nowadays are benign amateurs - people who love what they do, but don't like to make a song and dance about it. You see them at country fairs, wearing sandals and bearing home-grown potatoes. They are nature enthusiasts, hobbyists for whom a few hives are a way of staying in touch with the seasons, while producing some jars of something sweet to please their dear ones. Amateur beekeepers are gentle, even depressed, people for the most part; if they have a social sting, then, like the queen, they hardly use it.

They are used to keeping their cool in the midst of an angry multitude.

Almost by definition, they are sensitive types - responsive to the delicate feelings of their little companions, always alert to the slightest changes in the weather and the mood of the colony. They often see their hobby as a sort of affliction, quoting the beekeeper R.O.B. Manley - 'Bee fever: a form of insanity from which you never really recover'. It sounds like an apology, but really it's a modest kind of boast."

She also talks about beekeeper bores who drone on about what they know and what they've done. And she generally characterizes beekeepers as three types:

The scientist who studies the colony and uses bees to understand and know nature; the showman who parades his fearlessness and uses bees to control nature; and the hermit/sage who leads a quiet life and through bees submits to nature, knowing that humans cannot change anything. What kind of beekeeper are you? I like to paraphrase what Richard Feynman said about physics and

apply it to beekeeping: "[Beekeeping] is like sex; it may give some practical results, but that's not why we do it."

Speaking of reading (were we?), did you read "Stung" by Elizabeth Kolbert in the August 6th issue of *The New Yorker* magazine. It's a fine article about the current crisis in beekeeping and her attempts to understand it. Thanks to Bill Denison for sending it my way. I'll make some copies and bring them to the next meeting for those of you who'd like to read it.

"Page Two" (as Paul Harvey would say). Did you go to the fair? It was a good year - attendance was up, for the third year in a row the number of entries in the honey/beekeeping competition was up, and honey sales were the best in several years. There was a steady flow of people around and through the honey exhibit and there was a lot of bee talk. Next year, we'd like to utilize the stage area for more than just the nightly extracting demonstration. We'd like to open it up and encourage more beekeepers to consider participating with different kinds of educational demonstrations. Think about it. What would people like to see, to learn about beekeeping? What kinds of additional demonstrations or presentations can we offer? Give me your suggestions; or better yet, volunteer to present a demonstration yourself - here is another opportunity to educate the public and encourage the art and science of beekeeping.

Speaking of fairs, let's not forget the Fall Honey Harvest Festival close to home at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center on Saturday and Sunday, October 6th and 7th, from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Any CMBA member is invited to participate (at no cost). You can sell honey or hive products (contact Kirk Dreier at ORNC) or perhaps help one of the beekeepers working there. Try to attend this festival; you'll probably see some familiar faces. Bring the kids, bring the whole family - it's that kind of festival. Should be fun!

Of course, there are all kinds of fairs and festivals in the fall, many offer the opportunity to sell honey. It's that time of year when people like to buy honey so if you have some to sell, it's a good market. Personally, I'm not all that crazy about going through the rigmarole of preparing for a fair and I dislike sitting in a booth all day (usually a beautiful day when I could be out and about). But I do enjoy talking to people about bees and honey and there seems to be no end to the public's curiosity about bees and what we do. So I'll be working a couple of fairs up here in Pennsylvania and trying to spread the good word (to balance all the bad news in the media).

Have you surveyed your colonies for mites? Have you treated the colonies that need to be treated? Have you fed your bees? Mouse guards in place? Queen excluder removed? Entrance reduced? There will be fewer and fewer opportunities to work your bees as the weather turns and at some point its best just to leave them alone. So do

your work now. Don't neglect your fall management. As Ms. Wilson says in her book: "Beekeepers supplement many tasks in the bee colony - protecting the hive, keeping the hive clean, destroying diseased hives, aiding workers building combs, etc." Understand and anticipate your colonies' needs going into the winter and supplement their work and preparations. This is your task as a beekeeper.

Hope to see you at our October meeting on Tuesday, the 2nd. I'm looking forward to hearing Dr. Bob Berthold talk about beeswax and candle making - this will be an excellent program. Of course, there is always time for your questions. . .what's going on with YOUR colonies? Come at 7:00 for bee talk, refreshments, and library browsing. The meeting will start at 7:30 and end at 9:00pm.

I'll close with a final quote from *The Hive*: "Bees have persistently given men license to moralize about themselves."

Good beekeeping to you!

## Parental Stress Influences How do Bees Enter Winter

By Larry Connor

Reprinted from *Bee Culture* August 2007

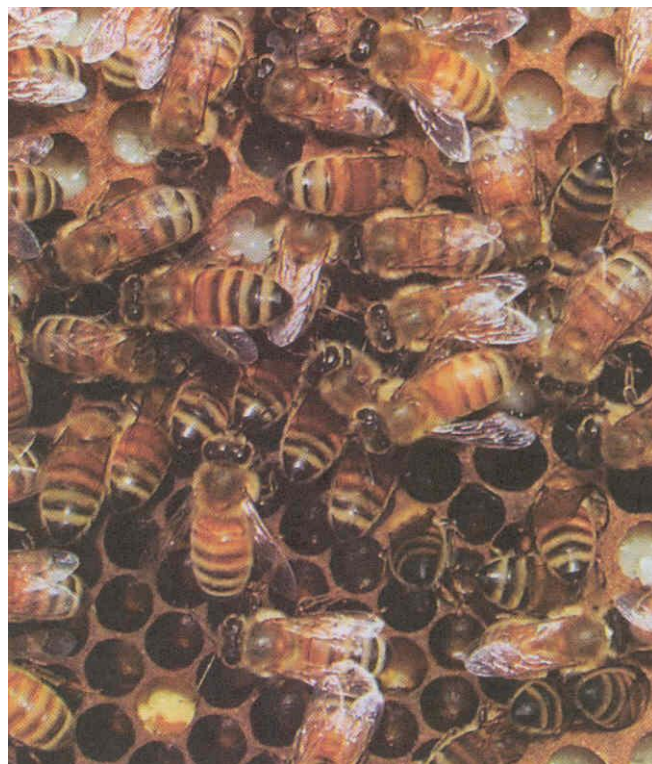
Grandma B, who helped Grandpa B run a coal-heated greenhouse and raised four children during the Great Depression and World War II, when asked how she did it, shrugged her shoulders and replied, "We didn't know as much." Now human couples spend a great deal of time putting energy into their kids' futures. Grandma B would say too much effort. In the past few months I have heard or read about parents who want to go with their adult children to their first post-college job interviews, about a new book that encourages boys to be boys - roughhouse, run, jump and yell, and about chickens that get stress from their parents. Grandma B may not have understood, but there is a link here for bees and beekeepers.

### "Parental" Nutrition

Most beekeepers learn about the differences between Summer Bees and Winter Bees. Summer bees live about six weeks after emerging from the pupal cell. They rapidly pass through their predictable hive assignments, working as nurse bees, house bees and foragers and then dying. But in the Northern Hemisphere, at about this time of year in the middle latitudes, the bees start to produce Winter Bees. These are the bees that will live six months or longer, and are part of the cadre of bees that forms the Winter cluster. Winter Bees must have the ability to survive the Winter and build the colony in the late Winter and early Spring before the first of the Summer Bees are produced. They must be healthy and well fed. The honey bee's genetic strategy for colony survival rests in these bees, not the residual Summer bees that soon will die.

If you read my column last month, I suggested you

read about the Australian work on *Fat Bees and Skinny Bees*. If you did you already know what Grandma B did: offspring that are well fed and well cared for will be more useful, indeed, more successful, than the ones that are poorly fed. The Fat bees are those that are fed the full component of all aspects of nutrition, especially ten essential amino acids, lipids, steroids, vitamins and minerals. These materials must come from hive resources and *the bees that raise these bees* - the nurse bees that produce the Winter Bees, along with the entire colony that supports the nurse bees. This "parental" effect is huge in beekeeping, and must be learned by every beekeeper to be successful over the long haul.



*The tips of their abdomens out of the cell, these nurse bees are busy feeding larvae. The nutrition of the nurse bees is key to Good Winter Bee production.*

So, if your colonies' nurse bees start making their Winter Bees in early August this year, how well were the nurse bees reared? What were the conditions in the hive at the time? They were probably produced in July, so their care and feeding is now important to us. How many beekeepers worry about the bees produced mid Summer, when the nectar flow is on or about to end? So, how was your beekeeping environment *last* month? Did the nectar flow arrive? Or did things dry up and were the *Varroa* mites sucking on the blood of your bees at a heavy rate? Maybe you bought or raised a bunch of bad queens and your nucleus increase colonies had a stressful start with late egg laying and slow colony buildup?

Obviously it is easy to ask these kinds of questions, and you can become completely neurotic worrying about what is going on in the hive. And in most years, and in most locations, the bees will do just fine. But if you are in

an area of single crop (mono culture) production, or if you have been experiencing high *Varroa* levels, or if you have had a poor year for nectar and pollen production, you should be concerned about your Winter Bee production and the nurse bees that produced them!

Let me say this another way - the success of your bees NEXT Winter and NEXT Spring depends on the proper nutrition and a high quality hive environment these past few weeks. If the bees in your hive have had a diverse supply of pollens - dozens or more pollen sources producing pollen the bees collected - and the nectar flow provided plenty of surplus honey, then the bees may be off to a good start for 2008.

But if your bees have been sitting on the edge of a corn field, and the bees have "mostly" collected pollen from just one plant, then things may not be so fantastic. The average protein content of corn pollen is 14-15% (most grass pollens have a low protein level; pine pollen runs 7-8% protein), but in many areas corn is the primary pollen the bees are able to find in late July, and it goes against the natural instinct of bees to have one primary pollen source for nutrition. Given a choice, studies have shown that most colonies will collect pollen from 20 or more plants at the same time. This is probably an effort to get a balance of essential and non-essential amino acids for proper brood growth. Like Grandma B said, eat a little bit of everything, and don't fill up on just one thing.

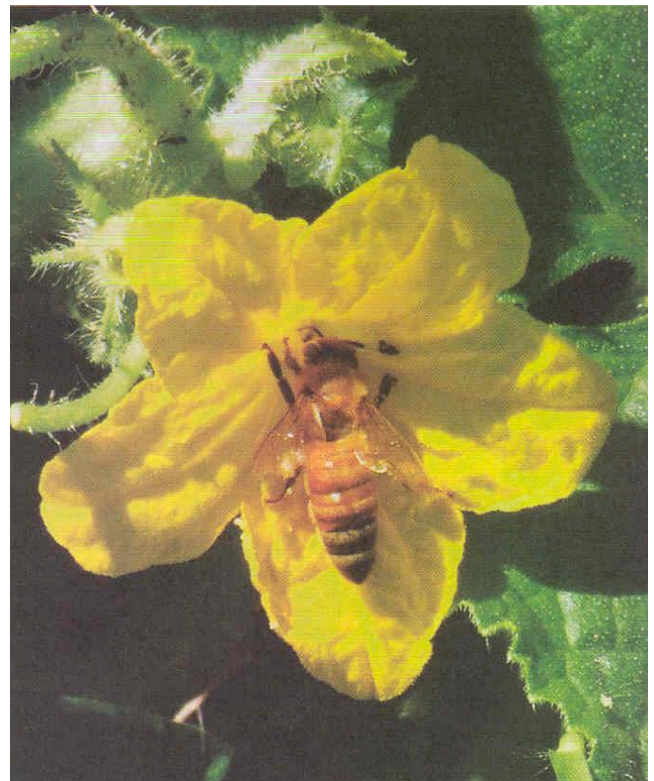
Where do we have areas of monoculture? Quite frankly, most agricultural land is focused on one or two primary crops. The focus on alcohol production from corn and diesel fuel substitutes from soybeans is rapidly changing agriculture in the United States. So watch out! If you rent bees for cucumber or pumpkin pollination (26% protein in the pollen but not much of it), my guess is that the bees come back to you in very poor shape. The exception, and it is quite a big exception, is when there is a clover, buckwheat, or "weed" field nearby that the bees are able to visit. I've driven through large sections of the country these past few years, and there are few places I can name where there is a huge diversity of Summer flowers. One of the best was downtown Detroit, where houses have been torn down and fantastic wildflowers grow in their place.

What can you do if your bees are not healthy? Bees that live under the constant feeding demands of a parasite like *Varroa* are giving up part of their nutritional and probably biochemical nature to feed the beasties. If you had a parasite the size of a flattened orange feeding on your child, you would freak out. And if you walked around all week and tried to work normally with a Frisbee-sized beastie feeding on your back, one you could not pull out because it had mouthparts that went deep into your body, I bet you are not having one of your best days.

### "Parental" Stress

Recently I stumbled over an article in *The Economist* (Epigenetics, "Serenity and the Farm," April 21, 2007) that explained how chickens get stress from their parents. When both jungle fowl (wild chickens) and domesticated

leghorn chickens were raised in either a stress-free or stressful environments (the stress was created by putting birds into a night/day pattern that changed constantly), the stressed domestic chickens acted quite differently when they were expected to follow a maze to food. What is significant for beekeepers is the fact that the *offspring of the stressed chickens* acted the same way, even when the offspring were raised in a calm environment. "Those (chickens) raised in an unpredictable environment had a worse spatial memory than their calmer counterparts, and, weirdly, that effect was repeated in their offspring, even though those chicks had grown up contented." The researchers looked at the level of corticosterone, a stress hormone in the yolk and whites of the stressed hen's eggs, but there was no difference than the unstressed hens. The authors suggest that maybe changes in patterns in the genes of the stressed hens were passed on their chicks.



*Cucumber flowers are very attractive to bees because of the relatively high sugar level in the nectar, and crops like pumpkins have a relatively high protein level in the pollen. The problem, for large acreages of vine crops like this is simple. There are simply not enough plants and thus flowers per acre to support the number of bees needed to pollinate the crop. Many beekeepers rent bees on cucumbers and pumpkins only to learn that they will be weak and die over Winter.*

Grandma ~ would have commented that some families she knew were just like that. The parents were always stressed-out over something, and the kids were always getting into trouble, and were "just not right." Now, it is a big leap to go from chickens to children, but what if stressed bee colonies passed on stress-related behaviors

to *their* offspring? I like to think of the genetic nature of any animal is like having thousands of switches that control everything. Each gene's switch may be on, or off or partway on. So nurse bees, when they feed the larvae royal jelly secreted in their glands, may contribute chemical signals that turn on, or off, certain genes when they feed the Winter Bees, Well, it's something to think about Grandma B would say.

Last year I focused on this, and came up with a possible method to use to increase nutrition, decrease mite feeding, and maybe even produce a low-stress colony. The answer is to make up summer increase colonies - two- to five-frame nucleus colonies - that are allowed to build up into full sized colonies over the Summer, or are over wintered as nucs. A lot of this ended in up in the book, *Increase Essentials\**. Here are some reasons you should consider Summer nucleus production in your apiary, even if you only have one or just a few colonies:

1. *Young, locally produced queen* - In the summertime you can raise your own queen, or get one from a local producer. She may be in several forms:

A. *Swarm cell* - As you work your colonies and find a swarm cell, remove the entire frame with the cell (if there is more than one cell, leave them all on the frame). Make sure the frame does not have the Mother queen on it. Move this frame to a nucleus colony or a 10-frame box with a follower board (a dummy frame to reduce the volume of nest the bees must guard). Add a frame of pollen and honey, plus the bees that are on it. Add extra drawn combs (if you have them).

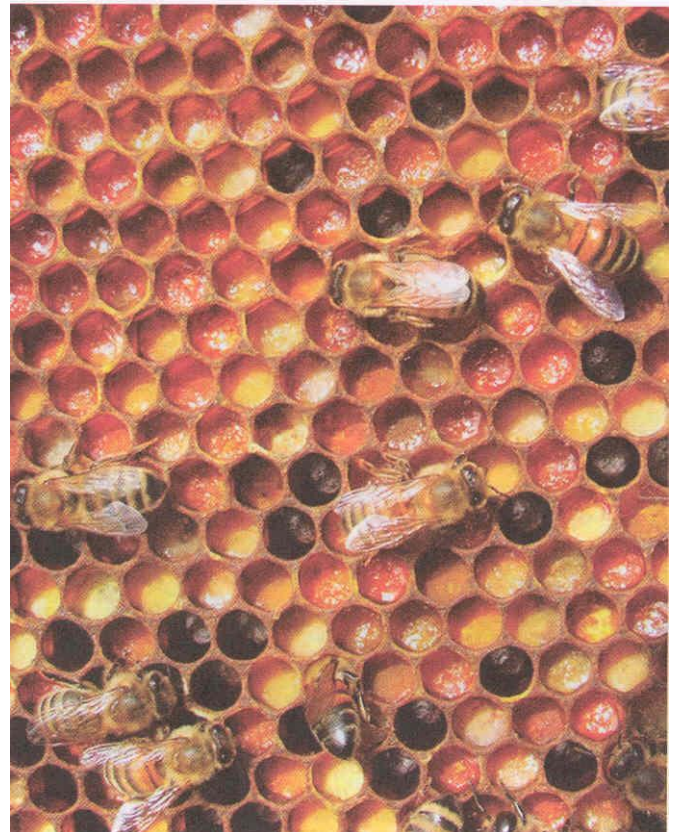
B. *Purchase a ripe queen cell* - If you have a local beekeeper who produces queens and queen cells, arrange to pick up ready-to-emerge queen cells. Carry them in a padded container and use up the same day. If they are ready to emerge, one virgin - the first one to emerge - will destroy the rest. From a strong colony, remove one or two frames of brood and bees, a food frame, and install them into a nucleus box as described above. If you want to keep the new colony (-ies) in the same apiary try this, from G.M. Doolittle's book, *A Year's Work in an Out-Apiary\**: Gently shake or brush all the bees off one or more frames of brood. Replace frames of drawn comb or foundation into the hive to prevent the bees from building burr comb. Put a queen excluder over the hive, and put an empty hive shell over the excluder. Close up the hive. In a few hours the nurse bees will have crawled through the queen excluder and covered the brood. Since they are young and have never flown, they may be located in the same apiary without fear of drifting. Keep the entrance of the hive small to reduce robbing from other colonies. Once in position, a queen cell or queen may be added.

Queen cells should be handled only at the base, and gently pushed into the top of one of the brood frames so the tip of the cell points downward. Or push two frames together with the queen cell in between. This works very well if the queen larva was grafted into a plastic cell cup, since this gives you a solid base and is less likely to be

damaged. If the queen cell was produced in a clear cell cup, look for surplus royal jelly in the base of the cup. If there is no surplus jelly, I strongly recommend you not purchase or use the queen cell, since it shows that the queen larva was not well fed.

C. *Mated Queen* - A queen from a nearby mating nucleus may be added to your increase colony using a push-in cage. Since she has been laying, her pheromone production should be normal, and a locally produced queen has huge advantages over a mated queen shipped to you from a queen bank from a producer miles, or states, away.

2. *Find a diverse floral location* - Move the nucleus colony to an out apiary location surrounded by a diverse supply of Summer and Fall flowers. You might find this along parks, rivers and streams, utility right-of-ways, etc. Many suburban locations are ideal places to produce queens and make increase colonies, since there are many gardens, parks, and floral plantings in the flight area of the colonies. During late July and August my suburban city location may have more floral diversity than Mom's farm just nine miles away.



*Bees on pollen: The diversity of colors reflect a wonderful array of essential amino acids bees need to produce new bees. By August, these include the Winter Bees. If a single color of pollen is found, it may be from just one plant source, and may lack enough of a particular amino acid bees need to thrive.*

3. A break in brood cycle - Many beekeepers have discovered that a break in the brood cycle has a significant impact on the development of huge *Varroa* mite populations. This happens when you make up a nucleus with a queen cell. There will be a period of several weeks where there is no new ready-to-seal brood for the *Varroa* mite to enter, and the worker bees will be better able to groom each other to remove the mites. When the mites are not able to enter brood cells, their reproduction rate stops. That's a good thing in mid Summer. (This is also an ideal time to treat this with any of the treatments that require no brood - powdered sugar is a good choice, too.)

Several beekeepers have looked at the smaller colonies and concluded that they do a better job a keeping mite levels low. Perhaps there are more resources for bee-to-bee grooming than in a larger colony. Perhaps some hygienic "switch" is on in small colonies and off or suppressed by something else in large ones. Who knows!

4. Local stocks - There are a growing number of us who want to produce queens locally. We want to produce queens from stock that has survived Winters and Summers and *Varroa* mites in the area where we keep our bees. We are less interested in getting queens from distant parts of the country, and we really don't want queens with genes from Australia or Africa. Yes, we know we cannot control mating very much, but if we use local stocks for several years, we should get our desirable local genes out into the mating environment.

5. Well-fed, low-stress nurse bees and Winter Bees - If we reduce *Varroa* mites, provide colonies with a diverse array of flowers to visit, and provide a break in the brood cycle, we may produce increase colonies that are better fed and less stressed than we might have had otherwise. This should put them in great shape as they enter Winter, and will then explode with rapid growth in the Spring of 2008

## Dear Neighbor

By Larry Connor

Reprinted from Bee Culture September 2007

Lately you mentioned that you heard news about honey bees disappearing and colonies dying, and you wanted to know what is happening. You also asked me what you could do to help honey bees. Let me tell you what I can. First, many scientists working on this problem have been making progress, but it is still limited by lack of funding, and so far we do not have concrete answers as to the cause of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). But to answer your second question, I took some time to make a list of some simple, and not so simple, ways you can help honey bees. So here goes - Ways you can help honey bees.

**There is little to fear with bees in your yard and neighborhood.** By nature, honey bees are only defensive (likely to sting) when their nest is threatened. Sure, you

might step on or accidentally pinch a bee and get stung, but millions of people walk, bike and jog through parks and gardens all the time and are not stung by bees foraging there for food for their hive. Wear shoes and socks if you are walking through yards and fields of clover and plants attractive to bees.

If you find a nest of honey bees (usually in a tree or the side of a building), leave them alone and call in a beekeeper for removal if they are in a bad place.

Honey bee nests will survive from year to year - the bees are not likely to go away unless destroyed by parasitic mites or the CCD. Learn to recognize other insects that look like bees. The yellow jackets and paper wasps are not bees. They are both wasp species, and may become defensive while you are on a picnic in the park. They are the insects that seem to want to fight over your hamburger. These are primarily meat eaters, but enjoy a tasty fried potato or sip of soda.

Many yellow jackets make paper nests in the ground and in bushes. The hornets nest in paper nests in trees, and the paper wasps make nests in protected areas of buildings (such as under eaves).

They may be killed by using one of the over-the counter pesticides if they are in a bad place (near playing children) - but as a group they feed their young caterpillars and maggots. These nests do not survive the Winter.

Honey bees (like all bees) are vegetarians and collect pollen (their protein source) and nectar from plants and water where they can.

**If you have a flower or vegetable garden,** you probably already have honey bees making pollination visits to certain flowers. They are essential for the successful pollination of a long list of fruits, berries and vegetables, so expect to see them on your fruit trees, berry flowers, squash, melons and cucumber flowers. For the country, honey bees provide over

15 billion dollars worth of food production - some say that is one bite out of every three! For the home garden they contribute to the food you enjoy and need for proper nutrition. Many home gardeners have noticed that there are fewer honey bees "doing their job."

Many wildflowers and flowers in the garden attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators. I encourage you to get a list of bee plants from your local or state extension service and plant them along with your butterfly plants. In California, the extension service has prepared a list of native plants and shrubs that are helpful to honey bees. Many of these plants require minimal water and management. Don't give up, as many states do not support bee programs as well as others.

**Starting in the Spring, provide a constant water source for bees.** Bees are attracted to water in a number of different situations. If you establish a waterfall in the garden, or have a decorative pond or pool, expect the bees to gather at the edge for water for the hive. During the Summer a hive of bees will require as much water as the pet dog, so don't be surprised to find dozens of bees

gathering water. Here's the key point: by establishing the water source early in the season, the bees are less likely to visit swimming pools and bird baths. They may be attracted to the salt and minerals of these sources, which is why I like to see folks have a place for bees to gather water that does not put the bees in close contact with humans and pets.

If bees start to cause problems at a swimming pool, consider covering the pool for a few days until the bees will move to another source.

**Plant bee flowers in your garden** and be attractive trees wherever you are able. I live in a city that has extensive park and city landscapes filled with flowers - they could all be flowers that the bees could forage upon and get food. In the past the city planted thousands of trees that bees like to visit for nectar and pollen. Between the sidewalk and the road is a large basswood tree, also called Linden or lime tree. It is common in many cities and is an excellent nectar source for bees. It makes a very tasty honey! My street has several basswood varieties and they bloom over several weeks in the late Spring. My neighbor has a tall tulip popular tree that has large magnolia-like flowers in June. It is a beautiful tree with tulip-flower-shaped leaves and hundreds of large yellow and green blossoms. One tree will not produce a lot of honey, but a city filled with these trees will keep a lot of bees alive.

The nice thing about these trees, when they are mature, is that when they are in full bloom - you don't usually know it unless you hear the faint murmur of bees as they work the flowers over your head.

**Work to have your entire community to "think natural pollinators"** when it sets out to design parks, recreational areas and walking/riding trails. If you are concerned about having people and bees in close contact, think up something clever, like "Do Not Disturb - Natural Pollinators At Work!"

**Reduce mowing** and let beneficial nectar and pollen producing plants grow - Many plants produce flowers above the mowing height of most lawnmowers, so every time the plant is ready to bloom the top of the plant and all the flowers are cut off. I agree that a ball field or playground should be mowed while it is in use by children and adults, but once the season is over the grass and other plants

could be allowed to grow to six to 10 inches in height so plants like white clover, birdsfoot trefoil, and alfalfa are able to grow and flower. Once the blooming season is over the area may be mowed and will be ready for the next year.

**Consider a bee flower blend of seed for large lawns.** What is the advantage of huge lawns that require high-energy fuels to mow, feed and establish pest control? Why not plant of blend of grass seed with white or alsike clover, trefoil, and low growing asters to keep below the mower height and still look great at a distance? The clovers and other legumes house nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their roots, and the lawn around them will actually be

greener than the surrounding grass. This will reduce the need for fertilizer applications. If you plant these plants and manage them well with conservative watering and mowing you will have an attractive lawn at lower costs and management time.

If you are a grass fanatic, why not plant the areas around the house with the lawn of your dreams, and then let the other areas go natural to support bees and other pollinators.

**Encourage state and federal officials to develop areas** of roadways and parklands that may be planted to plants beneficial to honey bees. There are many plants that will grow in these areas, including a few species that may be considered invasive by certain folks. But what is wrong with a roadside filled with blooming knapweed rather than grass? The Eastern/Midwestern species of spotted knapweed will produce lots of nectar in the lavender flowers during July and August.

**Work within various "Green" organizations** to make the honey bee a welcomed insect in environmental areas. True, Jamestown settlers imported the honey bee from Europe in 1623, and since then it has become one of the most dominant pollinators in North America. Many plants depend upon honey bee pollination, and while there are many thousands of other pollinator species, humans have destroyed many of their habitats, their food sources and in some cases their existence. The honey bee is one species that visits many different plants and benefits them by setting seeds and ensuring the future of the plant species. Indeed, the smart thing is to use honey bees in conservation areas will help establish the plants many of the native pollinators need to survive.

Certain other bee species need to be encouraged as well. We need bumble bees to pollinate tomatoes and help pollinate blueberries - they do a better job than honey bees. Bumble bees are able to buzz the flower to cause pollination, and the honey bee is unable to do that.

**Don't use pesticides** when the flowers are open and the bees may be flying. Some insecticides are very deadly to honey bees, so always be sure you read the ENTIRE label before applying an insecticide, and when you do, use the recommended amount, no more. Most fungicides and herbicides (like Roundup) do NOT affect honey bees directly. Certainly the whole point of the herbicides is to kill plants, some of which may attract bees for food. Only kill those plants that need to be killed. Let the roadsides grow with milkweed, sweet clover, goldenrod and aster. In addition to being helpful to the bees, it is a lot nicer to look at than dying plants and bare soil where everything has been killed.

**Support those Senators and Congressmen** who are working to increase funding for honey bee research, and all pollinators as well. Find the elected officials in your state that are supplying research and education funding at your local universities and schools. Your future and that of your children and grandchildren is at stake.

**Think about keeping a hive of bees yourself.** There are many beekeeping organizations around the country

that conduct beekeeping classes in the Winter and Spring. Most folks start their first hive in the springtime. If you decide to do this, find someone who will mentor you in your training as a beekeeper. It will probably take you several years to learn enough to feel comfortable keeping bees, but it is a great part time activity, and people of all ages are in beekeeping classes, from school students to retirees. The truth is we need more beekeepers throughout the country. (You can find a list of bee organizations on this magazine's website: [www.beeeculture.com](http://www.beeeculture.com)).

**Support American beekeepers.** Buy and use U.S. honey. And when you do, pick a local beekeeper's honey rather than honey imported from another country. By supporting your local beekeeper you are supporting the pollination of local food supplies, and you will be helping a neighbor rather than a stranger. Plus, some allergists claim that there are medical benefits from eating local honey to reduce the impact of pollen allergies, claiming that local honey contains local pollen. Most local beekeepers do not heat and filter out all pollen, so look for a local honey from local flora sources the next time you are at a farm market, grocery store or fair.

**There are a few things you should learn not to do** if you want to keep bees. Do not leave empty soda cans and bottles in trash containers. In the late Summer and Fall there are fewer flowers for bees to visit, so the foragers look for something sweet, and if they find unfinished sugar or corn-sweetener soda cans and containers in the trash, they will learn to look there and collect the sugar rich liquid. Prompt trash removal and closed containers eliminate potential issues with bees around trash cans. If you or your children have unfinished soft drinks or other sugary foods, empty them down the drain before dropping the container into the trash. If you plan to keep your drink, put a lid on it!

**Finally, it is important to prevent a ban on keeping bees** in your city, town or residential area. The bees managed by a well-trained beekeeper pose little concern, but wild swarms in hollow trees and unmanaged situations may result in dangerous encounters. In southern parts of the country where the African bees are becoming established, the smart community supports beekeepers and encourages them to manage a conservative number of beehives filled with European bees within the area - this provides a means of competing with African bees. Otherwise the only bees in the area will be wild colonies, located in unexpected places like water meters and flower pots. The beekeeper is the solution to the African bee problem, and is not the problem itself.

Well, neighbor, I hope this has helped. Feel free to make a copy of this and pass it along to your friends and family. Thanks for crediting me as the source, and for asking your questions.

## November CMBA Officer Elections

There will be several openings this year in the ranks of your CMBA officers. Will you consider filling one of those positions? For more information contact David Papke or Mike Spencer, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Elections will be held at the regular November meeting, which is also officially designated our Annual Meeting.

Beekeeping experience is NOT a requirement to serve as an officer, a desire to make a contribution to CMBA is. Please volunteer if you are willing to make a difference.

## YOUR LIBRARY IS UNDERGOING EXPANSION!!

Do you have an interest in a particular facet of beekeeping and have been unable to find a book or video on the topic in our lending library? Now is your chance to request a book or video title, author, or even a general subject area. Email me with the information and I will try my best to accommodate your request.

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## October Meetings Speaker

Nobody knows all there is to know about beeswax—except maybe Dr. Robert Berthold, Professor Emeritus of Delaware Valley College in Pennsylvania and master wax worker. His talk, "Beeswax and Its Many Uses," is one you won't want to miss. When it comes to beeswax, he wrote the book on it—literally. *Beeswax Crafting* (Wicwas Press, 1993) is a great how-to book, full of ideas and techniques you will want to try. Bob will tell us how to start with raw cappings, burr comb, even old, black combs, and create something useful or even a work of art. You can also purchase candle wick, molds, a solar wax melter kit, and his book. This meeting is not just for beekeepers. Tell your friends, art students, and teachers, and bring them along.

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

General Meeting – October 2, 2007– at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. 7:30PM

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Board Meeting – October 15, 2007 – 7 PM at Oregon Ridge Nature Center.

Lloyd Snyder – Editor  
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