

Items of interest to beekeepers August 2

Disclaimer:

These items are circulated as being of interest to beekeepers. The sender has no vested interest in them, pro or con, and beyond refusing items that are inflammatory, rude or abusive, does not engage in censorship of what information beekeepers should or should not have access to.

One isn't educated when they study only one side of a question, only brain-washed.

Clubs, please forward to your members, or give them the list of items in this mailing and my email address so they can sign up if they wish. Thanks.

IN THIS ISSUE ---

WAS 2015 UPDATE: MARLA SPIVAK, MARK WINSTON CONFIRMED CONFERENCE
KEYNOTERS
WASHINGTON BEEKEEPERS NOW FARMERS UNDER THE LAW
HONEY BEES NATURALLY VACCINATE THEIR YOUNG
FILIPINO BEEKEEPERS LOOKING FOR WORK
ABF WEBINARS
GLORYBEE GETS NON-GMO CERTIFICATION
MORE BEEKEEPERS IN NORTH DAKOTA
STUNG BY DEAD BEES
THE BEES ARE SAFE - NOW LIFT THIS BAN
CAN BEES FLY IN THE RAIN?
MAKING SCIENCE MAKE SENSE
'AGRICULTURE IS COOL' CONTEST
SOILS LAB SHOWCASES POLLINATOR RESEARCH DURING MINNESOTA HONEY
PRODUCERS MEETING
LINKS

WAS 2015 UPDATE: MARLA SPIVAK, MARK WINSTON CONFIRMED CONFERENCE
KEYNOTERS

Hello Beekeepers! Good news: Dr. Marla Spivak, a MacArthur Fellow and world-renowned bee researcher at the University of Minnesota, will deliver a "Protecting Our Pollinators" keynote at this year's Healthy Bee, Bee Healthy conference, coming up on October 1-3 in Boulder, Colorado and put on by the Western Apicultural Society and the Colorado State Beekeepers Association.

Also on tap: Mark Winston, award-winning author of "Bee Time: Lessons From the Hive" (with a book signing, of course!); an update on leading honeybee research at UC Davis; and a readout on the effects of pesticides, pathogens and mites on colony health from the Pesticide Research Institute's Susan Kegly.

We're also building two breakout tracks -- Beginner and Intermediate -- that will run concurrently on

Thursday and Friday afternoons. Beginner track topics include a Winter Hive Workshop (where you'll walk away with one re-usable hive jacket!), "Things I'd Wish I'd Known" as a beginner beekeeper; How to Keep Useful Beekeeping Records; and the Importance of Mentoring.

Intermediate tracks will cover "Raising Your Queen Bee Pedigree," "Real Time Disease Load Monitoring," and "Managing Media to Make More Money."

Plus! A Bee Buzz Social on Wednesday evening; a Next Generation Beekeepers Summit, led by Bee Girl Sarah Red Laird on Thursday evening; the WAS Awards Banquet Friday evening; and Saturday night, a Farm-to-Table dinner (with a menu heavily influenced by local top chefs and honeybee products!) featuring Lauren Springer Ogden on "Creating a Habitat Garden."

So: Don't delay! Sign up today! You can do that right here: <http://bit.ly/1OVv1xn>

Note: You can get a discounted room at the conference hotel -- the Millennium Boulder -- until 8/31. Enter in code "WAS2015" for the discount.

Last but not least: Check out our latest animated graphic about this year's conference: <http://bit.ly/1IQMDvb>

Thanks and see you in Boulder!

WASHINGTON BEEKEEPERS NOW FARMERS UNDER THE LAW

WSBA Legislative Chair Tim Hiatt announced in the July State newsletter that legislation has been passed officially designating beekeepers as farmers under the law. This gives them access to some tax benefits, and recognizes them as key players in many aspects of the agricultural industry.

Todd Myers sent us this link to a report in the Spokesman-Review
<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2015/jul/30/beekeepers-now-designated-as-farmers-under/>

This was posted on the Washington State Beekeepers website today, thanks to Paul Lundy.

HONEY BEES NATURALLY VACCINATE THEIR YOUNG

Another study that proves humans are not as unique in their intelligence as we thought they were. An abundance of recent studies have shown how chimpanzees share people's enjoyment of cooked food and alcohol, and now it's the bees' turn to prove that we're not all that different.

A new study conducted by an international team of researchers from Arizona State University, the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, the University of Helsinki and the University of Jyväskylä, has revealed that bees naturally immunize their young babies against any and all diseases that can be found in their specific environment.

For their study, the researchers looked at a bee blood protein known as "vitellogenin" and noticed that

it plays a critical, albeit previously unknown part in protecting baby bees against the specific diseases that they're surrounded by.

You can access the journal PLOS Pathogens research paper here:

<http://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/article?id=10.1371/journal.ppat.1005015>

FILIPINO BEEKEEPERS LOOKING FOR WORK

I have received information and queries from five beekeepers from the Phillipines, wanting to come to the US to work. Can anyone point me at the organization(s) they need to work through as this is something I know nothing at all about? Contact me at febach3@gmail.com.

ABF WEBINARS

On Thursday, July 30th, the American Beekeepers Federation "New Conversation with a Beekeeper" webinar series had Debbie Seib talking about the US bid to host Apimondia 2019. Apimondia is the international overbody of national bee industry organizations, head-quartered in Rome, Italy. Every other year, they hold a major conference to highlight the most recent research from all over the world. The last time an Apimondia Congress was held in North America was in 1999, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. I can tell you from personal knowledge that congress was in the works for a full seven years. It is no small undertaking.

If you (like me) missed this important webinar, don't fear. Each session is being recorded and made available on the ABF web site (for ABF member-only access). You will need to log into your account to access the sessions. If you don't remember your username or password, please contact Valerie Lake at valerielake@abfnet.org. If you aren't a member of ABF, you know how to fix that.

Other webinars scheduled:

Tuesday, August 18, 2015 - Know Your Mite Load: The Key to Keeping Healthy Bees
8:00 p.m. ET / 7:00 p.m. CT / 6:00 p.m. MT / 5:00 p.m. PT / 4:00 p.m. AKST / 3:00 p.m. HST
Greg Hannaford, owner of Ozark Bee Supply

SESSION DETAILS: Whether you are a conventional, chemical free, or treatment free beekeeper, it is important to know how your bees are dealing with mites in order to be successful. In this webinar we will discuss why it is important to know how many mites you have, and how to do a mite count to get valid numbers. Methods discussed will be the alcohol wash, sugar roll and sticky board.

Wednesday, August 26, 2015 - Primetime with Honey bees: Beekeeping, Honey bees and More!
8:00 p.m. ET / 7:00 p.m. CT / 6:00 p.m. MT / 5:00 p.m. PT / 4:00 p.m. AKST / 3:00 p.m. HST
Tim Tucker, ABF President

SESSION DETAILS: "Bee educated" about honey bees and how you — yes, you — can help reverse

their population decline. Join the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) for a free, public three-part webinar series about the basics of beekeeping and honey bees. Sessions are 90 minutes each and allow you to interact with expert beekeepers and ABF members! The first session is on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, at 8:00 PM ET. ABF President Tim Tucker shares an overview of honey bee biology and an explanation of how and why we keep them the way we do today.

Wednesday, September 23, 2015 - Primetime with Honey bees: Beekeeping, Honey bees and More! - Part Two

9:00 p.m. ET / 8:00 p.m. CT / 7:00 p.m. MT / 6:00 p.m. PT / 5:00 p.m. AKST / 4:00 p.m. HST

Blake Shook, ABF Board Member

SESSION DETAILS: The second session is on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at 9:00 PM ET. Blake Shook, ABF board member and a commercial beekeeper, speaks about the necessity of pollination to the honey industry specifically and the farming industry more broadly (we're talking economic impact in the billions of dollars!). Pollination is one of the honey bee's largest and most pressing tasks, so this is a session you won't want to miss.

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 - Primetime with Honey Bees: Beekeeping, Honey Bees and More! - Part Three

10:00 p.m. ET / 9:00 p.m. CT / 8:00 p.m. MT / 7:00 p.m. PT / 6:00 p.m. AKST / 5:00 p.m. HST

Gene Brandi, ABF Vice President

SESSION DETAILS: This last session is on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at 10:00 PM ET. ABF Vice President Gene Brandi shares challenges that beekeepers face and the effects of pesticides on the honey bee population. Beekeepers are losing 30-50% of their hives each year, so this is a pressing issue for all who are interested in the population. Gene will update us on everything that ABF board members and leaders are doing to help reverse the trend, and provides insight into how everyone can lend a helping hand.

Reserve your spot today by going to <http://www.abfnet.org> and scrolling down to find the Conversation with A Beekeeper Webinar Series info. You must log into your ABF membership account to register. Registration will close 24 business hours before the scheduled session. Twenty-four hours before the session the registered participant will receive an e-mail confirming participation, along with the necessary information to join the session. If an e-mail address is not provided, the ABF will call the participant with the information. Most sessions are uploaded to the website within the next day or two after the live presentation, so the page is updated at least one a month with new sessions.

GLORYBEE GETS NON-GMO CERTIFICATION

GloryBee® Foods announced this week the Non-GMO Project Verification on all its organic honeys. As the first major honey processor to earn this verification, GloryBee is able to offer all its organic honeys in large volume. As a company rooted in healthy living, GloryBee stands behind the transparency of its ingredients, and is happy to pass this verification onto its customers.

“We have been testing our organic honey for GMOs for more than five years, but being Non-GMO

Project Verified truly separates GloryBee organic honey from the others. This verification allows us to meet our customers' needs to add this verification to their own products, and develop even more products using our organic honey. We truly believe honey is nature's best sweetener," says GloryBee President Alan Turanski.

Honey is notoriously difficult to verify Non-GMO as it is considered a "high risk" ingredient. In order to ensure honey bees have not been exposed to GMOs an additional four mile boundary must be established outside the area of honey collection. Honey is likely to contain GMOs when outlying crops such as sugar beets, corn or soy have pollen collected and consumed by honey bees. GloryBee tests its honey regularly to guarantee its organic varieties are devoid of GMOs.

Most of the honey varieties come from the Pacific Northwest and are produced by local beekeepers. The imported organic honey is purchased from small cooperatives of beekeepers who are very concerned about the treatment of their bees and the quality of the honey.

More info at glorybee.com.

MORE BEEKEEPERS IN NORTH DAKOTA

By John Hageman, Forum News Service via Bee Culture's CATCH THE BUZZ

http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-number-of-beekeepers-climbs-in-north-dakota/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=1638ed99b1-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-1638ed99b1-256242233

The number of licensed beekeepers in North Dakota has steadily increased over the past five years, from 182 in 2010 to 246 this year, a 35 percent jump, according to the state Department of Agriculture. Officials cited a number of reasons for those figures, including efforts to make sure beekeepers are licensed and more out-of-staters looking to North Dakota, the nation's No. 1 honey producer. Conrad Dietzler, who has a beekeeping operation based near Larimore, said increased canola production is helping attract more beekeepers. "Now with all the canola, it's drawn a lot of out-of-state beekeepers, and they see those fields of yellow and think it looks like gold," he said.

As the number of beekeepers climbs, some rural landowners are concerned about hives showing up uninvited on their property, Dietzler said. A July 7 summit in Langdon, N.D., included discussion on relations between landowners and beekeepers, according to a meeting notice.

Samantha Brunner, the state apiary inspector, said bees being placed on someone's property without permission can be the result of a simple misunderstanding.

"Sometimes the land changes hands and the beekeeper wasn't notified," she said. Other times, beekeepers may knowingly be leaving hives on others' property without permission, which can cause further headaches if their boxes don't have any identification, said Richard Allen, a California-based beekeeper who is licensed in North Dakota.

"I'm sure it's happening," he said. "But most people try to be legitimate and follow the laws do it the

right way with landowner permission, and that's what we do.

"The state, with the help of beekeepers, has done a good job of cracking down on those issues in recent years, said Will Nissen, president of the North Dakota Beekeepers Association. "I think in time, the state will do a good job of straightening it out," he said.

Requirements: Prospective beekeepers have to apply for a license from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and indicate how many colonies they'll have. They also have to register the locations where they'll keep the bees and notify officials of their origin if they're coming from outside North Dakota, Brunner said. And starting Aug. 1, beekeepers may get verbal permission from landowners rather than presenting the Department of Agriculture with a written agreement between the two sides.

"They still have to get landowner permission and they still have to tell us where they're putting the bees, but it's not really our business what kind of a lease they sign or what kind of an agreement they have," Brunner said.

"It'll lighten the load of paperwork. If they're doing it incorrectly, we're still going to get those calls from landowners saying they found hives that they have no idea who they belong to.

"Brunner said she's tried to educate beekeepers on state requirements since she took over as apiary inspector in 2013. Around that time, some townships were throwing up "red flags" about passing zoning laws because of bees, she said.

"We just decided to make some changes to the program, and part of that was educating beekeepers and the public on what laws should be followed and what to do if they're having problems," she said. One result of that effort has been more beekeepers leaving some kind of identifying signs on their hives, Brunner said.

"You've got moisture up here, you've got flowers and rainfall, something to bring the bees so they can get pollen and nectar and stay healthy," he said. "You've got to find good territory for your bees to keep them healthy.

STUNG BY DEAD BEES

Once more I've been taken to task for some of the articles included in "Items.." This time it is Tom Theobald, unhappy about the article, BEEMAGEDDON? AS HYSTERIA OVER HONEY BEES RECEDES, ANTI-NEONIC NARRATIVE REFOCUSSES ON WILD BEES, published by Jon Entine on the Genetic Literacy website. Once more, I have reiterated my position as in favor of beekeepers having access to articles on both sides of a question - particularly a controversial question.

Therefore, as a counter to Entine's article, Tom sends this one, published in California Lawyer. There is a lot of detail and it is very interesting. I challenge everyone to read BOTH articles, WITH AN OPEN MIND. Everyone can learn something from both of them.

Remember the "Junk Science" article in the July 8th issue of "Items.."? Apply what you learned there both ways. How do these two articles measure up? Where do their arguments depend on "everybody knows" or "if we say it often enough, everyone will believe us"? How much is "science" and how much

"junk"?

Find the article at <https://www.callawyer.com/clstory.cfm?eid=941734&wteid=941734> Stung By Dead Bees

THE BEES ARE SAFE - NOW LIFT THIS BAN

From The Wall Street Journal, www.wsj.com, July 23, 2015

(<https://truthabouttrade.org/2015/07/23/the-bees-are-safe-now-lift-this-pesticide-ban>)

By Owen Paterson, Member of Parliament for North Shropshire in the United Kingdom and Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 2012 - 2014

Brussels banned a class of pesticides to avert a ‘beepocalypse’ that wasn’t happening. Now bugs threaten crops, and farmers may need harsher chemicals.

In 2013, to stem what was thought at the time to be a declining honeybee population, the European Union imposed a two-year ban on the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, known as neonics. Unfortunately, the decision was based on faulty science and pressure exerted by environmental lobbyists, and has since caused a widespread deterioration in crops across the U.K. and Europe. Now that the ban is set to expire in November, the EU has a chance to correct its mistake before any more damage is done.

The first and most compelling argument against the ban is, quite simply, that the honeybee population has in fact not been in decline. The EU’s own official statistics show the number of honeybee hives rising by 900,000 during the two decades that neonics were on the market. Meanwhile, other wild bee species—those that pollinate crops and thus would come into most extensive contact with neonics—are thriving.

When the EU first imposed the ban, it cited the work of the French scientist Mickaël Henry. Mr. Henry now confesses that he may have overdosed the bees with neonics in his experiments, as many of us suspected at the time, and admits he has “no real clues” how much insecticide bees encounter in the field.

As a result, the European Commission now concedes that the neonics ban “was at no time based on a direct link on bee mortality.” Which raises the question: Why were neonics banned at all?

Many of us had vehemently disputed the science used to justify the action. The reality is that the policy was heavily influenced by the environmental nongovernmental organizations whose “bee-pocalypse” hysteria had then reached a fever pitch. Enormous political pressure was exerted on politicians through a “save the bee” campaign. As Britain’s secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs at the time, I received 85,000 emails denouncing me for my opposition to the ban.

That sentiment persists. Just this month, a petition signed by nearly half a million people was delivered to Downing Street asking that the neonics ban be upheld. But the petition, like the policy, appeals more to misinformation than to science.

As a result of the ban, an increase in insect pests has led to crop losses in fields across Britain and

Europe. According to the European farming group Copa-Cogeca, EU oilseed-rape production is expected to fall by as much as 7% this year compared to 2014. Worst-hit might be the U.K., where oilseed-rape production reached £684 million (\$1.06 billion) in 2014, and some parts of the country are expected to lose as much as 40% of their production this year. In Germany, the predicted loss is 20%. At least five member states have claimed exemptions that would allow farmers to use neonics on an emergency basis.

“If neonics are banned, then we will have to revert back to the much more savage pyrethroid sprays, which have been proven to do so much more harm to bees—and all other insects,” says Viv Marsh, a horticulturalist working on biodiversity conservation in my North Shropshire constituency. “This would be such a retrograde step. It would be all too easy to assume that the fall in numbers of bees is just down to the current use of neonicotinoids in producing the food for us to consume—but it really is not that simple.

“It is more an amalgam of reasons, including the loss of many of the wild flower meadows in this country that had to be ploughed up for us to survive the last world war. Plus pest and disease strike on the honey bee more recently.”

The ban is an indictment of Europe’s “precautionary principle”—Brussels’s trump card for implementing regulations without proof that it is necessary or beneficial. In this case, it was supposed to be an opportunity for the European Commission to examine the facts and determine whether continuing the ban after the initial two-year period was warranted. Now that the facts and the science are in, rarely has a supposed environmental hazard been so completely debunked.

If the Commission does the right thing and allows the two-year ban to expire, it would be a huge relief to farmers trying to save their crops and conservationists trying to save the bees. Just as important, it would be a repudiation of the scare mongering employed by environmentalists and an indication that maybe, at long last, Brussels will start putting facts, science and common sense back into the process of regulatory decision making.

This item is mentioned in Beth Roden's Weekly New Summary at Bayer -

CAN BEES FLY IN THE RAIN?

Facts about Honey Bees and Pesticides

By Dick Rogers, Principal Scientist / Entomologist, Bayer Bee Care Center

We received a question on Twitter recently about the impact that rain has on the ability of bees to pollinate crops. The tweet noted that it had been raining every day in Ohio, thus making it difficult for the bees to get their work done.

Can bees fly in the rain? In DreamWorks’s animated Bee Movie, character Barry B. Benson, a honey bee (voice of Jerry Seinfeld), gets caught out of the hive during a rain storm. Two large rain droplets pound him off of his flight course, and he is forced to seek shelter through an open apartment window. Of course, everyone knows that worker honey bees are females, right? So, although the gender of the bees in this movie is inaccurate, the seeking shelter from rain part is real.

Animated films often play a bit loosely with the facts, and some of the Bee Movie’s bee facts are no

exception. But the movie's statement that bees can't fly in the rain, as it turns out, is pretty accurate. Honey bees, and flying insects in general, do not fly in certain conditions of rain. Mist, for example, can easily cover a bee and interfere with its flight aerodynamics. Bee flight muscles typically beat 12,000 times per minute, and mist can impede these wing beats. In addition, water can accumulate on the bee's hairy body, becoming a weight issue.

In heavy rain, such as that faced by Barry in the Bee Movie, large droplets can hit a bee in flight and knock it out of the air similar to being hit by a blast from a water cannon. In addition, rain clouds can block the sun and may interfere with bee navigation, as well as reducing solar radiation, which can help heat up flight muscles. The coolness of the rain water also can lower the bee's body temperature and impede activity, including flight.

If a bee is out and a rain shower pops up, it will seek shelter and return to the hive later. Or if bees are already in the hive, they will stay put until a break in the rain and all conditions are suitable for flight.

Interesting fact: Firefighters use a wall of mist to control bee flight and protect rescue workers when bees are spilled on highways when trucks transporting hives of bees for pollination accidentally tip over.

Go to <https://www.bayercropscience.us/news/blog/2015/july/072715-you-ask-we-answer---can-bees-fly-in-the-rain> to ask your questions (scroll to the bottom for the form).

Also in Beth's news summary are a couple of youth-oriented programs of note. She particularly liked the following two.

MAKING SCIENCE MAKE SENSE

In North Carolina, Bayer has been working with Passage Home, a local non-profit dedicated to making families and communities stronger, by supporting their youth summer program. Last week, they visited the Bayer CropScience headquarters for a fun day of Making Science Make Sense® experiments and a tour of the Bee Care Center led by a fifth grade teacher that we've been collaborating with as part of a Kenan fellowship.

The WNCN News article "Children in summer camp learn about science at RTP" can be found at <http://wncn.com/2015/07/29/children-in-summer-camp-learn-about-science-at-rtp/>

'AGRICULTURE IS COOL' CONTEST

The "Agriculture is Cool" contest for kids ages K - 12 is in its fifth year as been part of the Ohio State Fair. All you folks involved in fairs might want to have a look at something fun that helps create young "advocates" (<http://sidneydailynews.com/top-stories/3262/local-students-win-agriculture-is-cool-contest>).

SOILS LAB SHOWCASES POLLINATOR RESEARCH DURING MINNESOTA HONEY PRODUCERS MEETING

She also mentions the Minnesota Honey Producers Meeting, which elicited this story in the Morris Sun Tribune - <http://www.morrissuntribune.com/farm/agriculture/3806165-soils-lab-showcases-pollinator-research-during-meeting-minnesota-honey>

LINKS

These links will take you to important websites. Reprinting the items gets too voluminous, so I encourage you to visit the originals for some good reading any time.

Winnie the Pooh Guide to helping British bees: http://www.friendsofthehoneybee.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/E2463_BeeBooklet_Web.pdf

From Julie, an after-school child care worker: Looking for a good information site to teach children and beginning beekeepers? Try <http://www.serenataflowers.com/pollennation/flowers-bees-honey/>

UC-Davis on-line Newsletter: http://elninobeelab.ucdavis.edu/apiculture_newsletter.html

Apis newsletter - PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE. The Apis newsletter is now found at <http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=9296a3543dc631c8a50086511&id=ec6bf7d517>
It can also be accessed through <http://apis.shorturl.com>

<http://beecare.bayer.com/service-center/publications/beenow-magazin>

California State Department of Food and Agriculture blog - plantingseedsblog.cdffa.ca.gov

Honey Bee Health Coalition - www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org

Pollinator Stewardship Council - pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=349, with the most recent one posting at the top of the page

Project Apis m. - www.ProjectApism.org

Washington State University on bee health - www.extension.org/bee_health

WSU 'Green Times' newsletter - <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/blog/2015/01/wsus-green-times>

Colorado State University Pollinator Protection office - <http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/Pollinator%20Protection/index.html>

Archived "Items...." are available on request.

To be removed from this list, just hit 'Reply' and put "Unsubscribe bee list" in the Subject line.

Fran Bach, Western Apicultural Society Journal and Washington State Beekeepers newsletter editor

509-573-4245

febach3@gmail.com