

THE REEL BUZZ

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Bee-I-Bee-L-E	2
Honey, What's For Dinner?	2
PhBee	2
Bee Prepared!	3
Dare To Bee Different	3
Monthly Apiary Suggestions	4

How Sweet It Is!!!

The Reelfoot Beekeeper's Association began meeting in August of 2014 at Willingham Memorial Baptist Church located in Ridgely, TN.

The RBA has come a long way since the first meeting. We have had several visitors to the meetings and several faithful charter members to stick around. The RBA appreciates each of those dedicated folks!

In October of 2016 the RBA became affiliated with the Tennessee Beekeeper's Association. The TBA is recognized as the statewide association for beekeepers.

The RBA began collecting membership dues for the first time in November of 2016. By the end of December 2016 there were a total of 16 official members in the RBA!

The Reelfoot Beekeeper's

Association is hoping to increase interest from the public in 2017. Plans are being made to educate the public by having a day of short classes related to the different aspects of beekeeping.

The RBA is also planning to have a field day in the late spring to give members the opportunity to gain hands on experience in inspecting hives.

It should be noted that the Northwest Tennessee Beekeeper's Association of Dresden, TN is a huge part of the existence of the Reelfoot Beekeeper's Association. They have been very helpful in supporting the RBA.

A BIG THANKS goes out to the NWTBA!!!



Got Woodenware?

Don't get caught this spring without everything you need!

The RBA will be putting together an order with Mann Lake Beekeeping Supplies. If you need a few things (or many) this

is your chance to combine your order to save on shipping costs.

The date to turn in your order will be on Tuesday, February 21st at the next scheduled RBA meeting.

Some suggested items would be frames, foundation, supers, excluders, etc.

Put your list together and bring it to the next meeting.

Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Proverbs 16:24 (KJV)

The Bee-I-Bee-L-E

When considering the significance of honey for the Israelites, we must bear in mind that in the Bible there is no implication that it is a cultivated product. Beekeeping was developed by them many centuries later. The biblical bees were certainly wild bees, and various other references made to their honey would indicate that it was considered public property.

Wild bees living in the hollow trunks of dead trees and in the protected nooks of rock formations produced honey long before apiculture was invented. In nature, fertile land produces honey by itself and can be seen flowing, quite literally, with it. One clear implication of the presence of abundant wild honey is the existence of ample water and fertile soil that nectar-producing flowers require.

An abundance of this wild honey would generally imply other desirable conditions about a land and its climate that people dependent on the earth's fertility for their survival would value. Surely, the ancients observed that honey was most plentiful in areas where their livestock produced the most milk. In these same pastures, rich in greens for grazing, would grow an abundance of flowers for bees. It would only make sense to refer to the Promise Land as a land flowing with Milk and Honey.

Honey, What's For Dinner?



Honey-Lime Chicken Skewers:

Ingredients:

2 tbsps - honey
3 tbsps - soy sauce
1 tbsp - olive oil
1 - Lime, juiced
1 lb. - chicken breast strips, skinless and boneless

Directions:

In a small bowl, whisk all liquid ingredients together until completely blended.

Pour mixture into a freezer bag and add in chicken strips.

Reseal bag and gently shake to cover chicken strips.

Allow to marinate for 2

hours.

Next, prepare skewers by soaking bamboo sticks in water for 15 minutes.

Remove chicken strips from marinade and skewer onto bamboo sticks.

Grill on medium to high heat for 8 minutes or until juices are clear and chicken is fully cooked.

PhBee



No one in their right mind intentionally hurts themselves. And no matter how careful you are, accidents do happen!

So the next time you accidentally cut yourself, Pour a dab of honey on the cut before covering it

with a bandage. Honey has powerful antibacterial properties. A recent study found that it was capable of destroying almost all strains of the most common wound-infecting bacteria.

Believe it, or not, honey can do the same for minor burns. But even better, honey can even stop the swelling of a bee sting!!! *Yep, you read that right.* Give it a try the next time the girls go on the defensive.

Bee Prepared!

Spring isn't here yet, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be planning for its arrival. For many new beekeepers, that means the arrival of their bees. The question then is, are you ready? Do you have a smoker, foundation, hive tool, and a bee suit? Have you painted your hives and decided where you're going to place them? Time has a way of sneaking up on us, so if you answered no to any of these questions, don't fret, just get busy as a BEE! Call or go online to any of the numerous Bee Supply Companies and order any last minute items. Decide whether you will paint or stain your hives. Painting or staining the outside of

your hive will protect it against the elements. However, DO NOT paint the inside of your hives. If you do choose to paint your hives, choose a light colored exterior latex paint. Consider a location for your hives: Make sure you place them where you can properly manage them. Remember, out of sight, typically, means out of mind. Determine how you will provide a clean source of water for the bees. Water is essential to hive activity, i.e., cooling, brood rearing, etc. So start a small water garden, build a rock fountain, use a chicken feeder with gravel placed in the water for the bees to stand on, or use a small pool.

Whatever you choose, you'll be aiding your bees to be more efficient. Think about mulching or graveling under and around your hives, in order to control weeds. And READ! Take this time to read and learn all you can about bees. Learn the workings of the hive. Familiarize yourself with diseases and parasites that affect honey bees and what your treatment options are. Don't wait for a crisis to happen before you decide. Be prepared! Plan a flower or vegetable garden. It's a win, win situation, so BEE PREPARED!



Dare To Bee Different

In Michael Bush's book, "The Practical Beekeeper: Beekeeping Naturally", Mr. Bush shares why a beekeeper may want to go foundationless: Mr. Bush contends that by allowing the bees to draw out their own foundation, contamination is less of a problem and by allowing them to naturally draw out their comb, the natural cell size aids in the control of the Varroa mite. Mr. Bush presents the longevity of his queens and their proficiency as egg layers as evidence.

So how do you go foundationless?

With standard wedge frames, just break out the wedge and nail it sideways.

With grooved top bars, put popsicle sticks in the groove or half of a paint stick or a piece of a "one by" ripped

With drawn wax, just cut the center of the comb out leaving a row of cells around the edges

With an old frame with no comb, just put it between two drawn brood combs

With a plastic

foundation/frame, just cut the center of the foundation out leaving a row of cells around the edge

When making your own, cut a bevel on the top bar so it slopes down to a point.

There seems to be both pros and cons to going foundationless. However, it appears there are more pros than cons.

Pros: Less time and money invested, clean wax, Natural cell size, Natural brood nest

Cons: Without wiring deep frames, you could end up with collapsed comb; Hives need to be completely level.

"...Allowing [bees] to naturally draw out their comb, the natural cell size aids in the control of the Varroa mite."

Reelfoot Beekeeper's Association
435 Madie Thompson Rd.
Ridgely, TN 38080

Phone
731-907-0110
E-mail
bees@reelfootbees.org

*Beekeepers helping
Beekeepers*



We're on the Web!
www.reelfootbees.org

Reelfoot Beekeeper's Association exists to raise awareness of Beekeeping to the people of Reelfoot Lake area. We welcome anyone new to the hobby or very much experienced in the art of Beekeeping. We invite you to bring your questions and to bring your answers. You might be amazed at some of the things that are working for others in this hobby.

Monthly Apiary Suggestions

January:

Order your bees!!!

Order all needed supplies and equipment.

Hives should have at least 15 lbs. of honey stores (2 1/2 lbs. per shallow frame; 3 1/2 lbs. per medium frame; 6 – 7 lbs. per deep frame), if not, be sure the bees are being fed.

February:

Open your hives and check for a laying queen, diseases and brood. *Only open the hive if the temperature is 50-55 degrees with the sun*

shining and no wind blowing.

Check honey stores again.

Check for weak colonies. Bees should easily cover 5 frames. If not, consider combining colonies.

Feed a pollen substitute.

By mid-February place a honey super on the hive. Replace every other frame with new foundation to help decrease swarming.

Mid-February is also a good time to begin feeding bees sugar water mixed with Tea Tree oil

as means to prevent Nosema. Wintergreen oil aids in the prevention of Varroa mite.

March:

Continue to feed bees if their honey stores are low.

To increase the colony size, you may consider switching the bottom box with the top box. To trick the queen into thinking there is plenty of room to expand the colony.