

beekeepersgazette@bellsouth.net

In this issue we cover feeding, wasps, and more.

And best of all, it's free for the asking.

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How This Came About

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly an idea can blossom into reality. This newsletter originally came about from long time thoughts that a newsletter covering the beekeeping community of our area would be well received.

I didn't want to jump into this blindly, so I sought advice from people whose opinions I respect.

Well, to be honest, we couldn't decide on the right way to approach this, so I sent the original newsletter to just two JaxBees officers hoping for feedback, either good

or bad.

I am proud to announce that they distributed the newsletter to several others and the feedback was great.

We received over fifteen responses with only two offering feedback that needed to be addressed. Our distribution list started with two and has grown exponentially.

I really want to thank our officers for their support. Your help in the distribution process is appreciated.

With that said, we changed the format considerably.

This newsletter will try to address beekeeping news and information from our area.

We will try to publish this on a regular basis, only to those that wish to be informed.

If you are not interested in this newsletter please email us or if you know someone who is interested, please email us and we will act accordingly.

Until the next addition, enjoy your bees,

The Editor

What is our Goal?

This issue is really about whom we are and where we are headed. Our ultimate goal is to make this an area wide newsletter of the goings on of the Northeast Florida Beekeeping Community.

We are hoping that with your input, we can cover the news so many of you are seemingly hungry for.

If you have news or events you think others would like to hear about or if you would like to submit an educational article, please submit it to;

beekeepersgazette@bellsouth.net

Keep in mind, this is an independently owned publication and is not promoted by nor the opinions of any

organization or club. If at any point, you do not agree with, feel insulted by or just can't figure out our message, contact us and we will remove you from our distribution list.

Other than that, our true intent is to spread the word of beekeeping and have fun.

Please join us.



*Photos from the
JaxBees Booth at the
Greater Jacksonville
Fair*

The Jacksonville Fair is Underway

After several months of planning, the JaxBees booth at the Greater Jacksonville Fair is complete and underway.

The fair opened last Wednesday at five o'clock and will run through Sunday, November, 17th.

I am hoping each of you will have a chance to go by the booth and see the results of your fellow member's hard work.

This year the honey show was expanded to include

a Black Jar category and Beeswax.

The Beeswax category didn't catch on as quickly as I had hoped, but it is a beginning.

The winners of the Honey Show are;

Martin Davis, 1st Place, Extracted Light Honey

Standley Slowey, 1st Place, Extracted Honey, Amber

Catherine Sloan-Rhys, 1st Place, Black Jar

Joyce Bennett, 2nd Place, Black Jar

Kevin Hodges, 3rd Place, Black Jar

And finally,

Martin Davis won Best of Show for his Light Extracted Honey entry.

I want to personally thank everyone who helped setting up the booth and thanks in advance to those who are scheduled to work a tour.

'Tis the Season

Hopefully everyone is feeding their bees. The winter dearth has begun and the bees can't make it without your help. If you are trying to reproduce a nectar flow, then a ratio of 1:1 is recommended. However, if your bees have no stored honey, you may need to use a ratio of 2:1

so rather than use it for feed; they will store some of it. Another thing to consider is the mite counts in your hives. I've seen a lot of beetles and other problems this fall and most are probably caused by excessive mite loads. There are several ways to check the mite counts.

You can use a sticky board, ether roll or even a powdered sugar shake. Whatever you use, do a mite count and treat your bees if needed. Winter is coming and you want your bees to make it through the hard times.

Happy Beekeeping

You can contribute also...

While reading this newsletter, consider what is going on in your yard that may be of interest to others.

The beekeeping community is built on spreading each other's knowledge.

If you are interested in submitting an article, please do so.

We will review it for consideration and contact you accordingly.

Please remember, the staff has final

consideration for the contents of this publication.

Submit your article to beekeepersgazette@bellsouth.net

Ask and You Might Receive

Our own version of Q & A

Q: Is this publication supported by The Jacksonville Beekeepers Association?

A: No. This publication is completely independent of JaxBees. The content and funding are from providers that are merely trying to promote beekeeping in a way that might be beneficial to others.

Q: I have experienced robbing lately. What can I do?

A: This time of year robbing can be a serious problem. There are very

few nectar sources available, so the bees take every advantage they can for food.

First, reduce the hive entrance down to an inch or so. It requires fewer guard bees to defend a smaller opening.

Next, keep plenty of feed on the bees. If they are not experiencing a shortage of food, they are less likely to rob.

Also, whenever you are inspecting your hives (and I hope you are) don't leave them open while you do other things. Do what you

need to and close them up. When left open, foraging bees can and will smell honey inside of the open hive. If they are desperate, they will surely start looking for a way in.

The best offence for robbing is good planning.

We are planning to run a Q&A column every issue.

If you have a question, please submit it to our email address.

beekeepersgazette@bellsouth.net



"Next time I'll bring an umbrella"

Yellow Jackets are not Just a Football Team

Anyone who keeps bees can understand the desire to walk through the bee yard with nothing on your mind except to see what's going on.

Well, today, I was doing just that and noticed Yellow Jackets beginning to gather around.

Yellow Jackets and occasionally Wasps can be devastating to bee hives this time of year.

Yellow Jackets and Wasps are carnivorous. They are attracted to the bee hives by the smell of honey, looking for carbohydrates for the winter. Once inside the

hive, they will eat the eggs and larvae, leaving nothing for the hive to sustain.

At times, you may open a hive and wonder why there is nothing but capped brood.

If you see them congregating around your hives, it's time to do something, and soon.

First and foremost, reduce your entrance to less than an inch.

Then, hardware and home improvement stores sell wasp traps that may be useful.

I've also heard of a simple

recipe consisting of; 1 cup sugar, 1 cup water, 1 cup apple cider vinegar and a banana peel placed in a milk jug or two liter bottle with a quarter sized hole cut in the top edge. This recipe is also effective for Wax Moths)

An even simpler remedy and my favorite is to simply place sugar water in a glass beer type bottle and sit it next to or near the hive.

Whichever method you decide to use, don't let them devastate your hive

Do something as soon as you see them.

"Yellow Jackets and Wasps can quickly devastate a bee hive."

Who is this person "The Editor"

Hello, my name is Ray Claxton.

I am a seasoned beekeeper as well as a Master Beekeeper in the University of Florida's Master Beekeeping Program.

I have seen a need to bring area beekeepers together for the sake of the craft.

I am the Editor and source of this publication.

I have pondered the idea of this newsletter for a while. Now is the time.

My intent is a "Community Style" newsletter. I am hoping you will submit material and ask questions that will ultimately become the link to beekeeping in Northeast Florida.

Please join me in trying out a new idea.

You never know, if we work together, this may lead to somewhere useful.

The Editor



E-MAIL:
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Please, if you do not wish to remain on our distribution list, please let us know.

If you wish to be added to our distribution list or know someone who would, please let us know.

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