January 2016

As I am writing, we are preparing to move colonies to California for almond pollination. With rainfall this year, almond growers will be looking for more hives to pollinate the almonds while beekeepers have suffered losses again across the country. We have dodged a bullet with a warmer winter in spite of earlier predictions of colder weather. Most beekeepers should have good colonies coming out of the winter, and we hope everyone has a good start for the New Year.

On the national front we have a lot of work to be done. Many programs initiated by President Obama may disappear with his administration or be changed, which means we need to utilize his Pollinator Health Task Force (PHTF) before he leaves office. Dr. Tom Rinderer, the director at the Baton Rouge Bee Lab, has retired at the end of 2015. That position will need to be filled. We also have a new lab in California developing which should get tremendous support. It looks like we have our work cut out for us in 2016.

Our convention in Monroe had a good turn out with excellent topics. On both days we had well known speakers give presentations which were received well. There was a lot of information given and ideas were shared amongst the groups. Next year we will hold the convention in Baton Rouge so make your plans early!

The American Honey Producers Association held their convention in New Mexico. That convention also had good information and was well attended. There was a representative from the White House present what their PHTF is doing and plans for the upcoming year. Dr. Melinda Cep from Secretary Vilsack’s office also was there and gave a presentation. Next Year there will be a joint convention from our two national organizations, the American Beekeeping Federation and the American Honey Producers, in Galveston Texas.

We are still promoting the “clubs get a member” campaign. If you know anyone who would like to be member of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association (LBA), they can join via our website labeekeepers.org.

Joe Sanroma
President LBA
Those in attendance the LBA’s 54th annual convention were provided with some quality speakers and topics. I was at odds with which one(s) to talk about. Blake Shook, owner of Desert Creek Honey, has given several talks before, and I’ve talked of his enterprising business in this newsletter in the past. Chris Hiatt, co-owner of Hiatt Honey gave an insightful discussion of a major company’s operation and development. There were others as well but two caught my attention as their talks centered on not only what a commercial company should be practicing but what a small operator or hobby beekeeper should be doing. Both provided subject matter that I could take home and utilize – and which I did.

In this BBB (#1) I have chosen to give a synopsis of Randy Oliver’s “Having a Plan B for Varroa Management?” His second talk was on “Understanding Bee Biology Over the Course of a Year”. Both can be found on his website, ScientificBeekeeping.com

In the next BBB (#2) I will speak to a second speaker, Michael Bush. His two presentations, “The Practical Beekeeper” and “Natural Cell Size and Swarm Preventions and Splits” are worth sharing.

Spring is in the air, and I’m already gearing up for a great 2016. This February I will be putting on my second year’s Beginning Beekeeping Class through the LSU Agriculture System. I will also be putting together a Queen Rearing Class in the spring.

I sincerely hope we don’t get another rainy spring or late freezes nor extended summer temperatures that not only cook one’s eggs but fry the bacon, brew the coffee and adversely impact the honey flow! The last three springs in central Louisiana have been bummer.

In this newsletter:
- Recap of the 54th Annual LBA Conference, held in the Hilton Garden Inn located in West Monroe, December 2015
- Internet sites you might find useful
- Articles of Interest
  - Synopsis of Randy Oliver’s “Having a Plan B for Varroa Management”
- Renew you LBA membership
- Commercial Business Advertisements
- Listing of the 2016 LBA Board of Directors
- Listing of LA Honey Bee Clubs and their presidents’ contact information

We had a total of 215 attendees, including 15 speakers & guests and 8 dealers. It was one of the best all-round conferences in my 18 years as a member of the LBA. Outstanding facility, great location, well-laid out and managed. Thank you Hill Country Beekeepers and Amy Weeks their president, for putting on a great show!

Here is a small photo gallery of what went on at the conference.

Partial view of the attendees and silent auction items

Friday night’s banquet

Randy Fair – our M.C. at the conference

Billy Hummer presenting a ribbon to MacKenzie Stanford for her brood box submission. Her mom Jennifer Brown and Tam Corbett are seated in the back.
Bobby Frierson, son and daughter-in-law, selling hats, shirts and mugs. (See no evil.)

Margaret Prell, Amy Weeks & Dave Ferguson (The little old ticket counter.)

Wesley Card and two LBA members

Some of the dealers and LBA members

Partial view of the attendees

Joe Sanroma presenting a distinguished service award to retiring Baton Rouge Bee Lab Director, Dr. Tom Rinderer
Some of Dadant’s wares for sale

Auction items displayed during the banquet

View of donated silent auction items

Michael Bush
Dr. Kristen Healy, Assistant Professor, LSU Department of Entomology

Randy Oliver

ABA’s Honey Queen – Hayden Wolf and Jennifer Brown pulling winners for Raffle Items

4-H Contest Winner – Kristen Healy and LDAF Commissioner, Mike Strain

The Brood Box Art Contest winners were MacKenzie Stanford – Most Creative and Larry Kebodeaux – Most Beautiful.

The Honey Baked Goods Contest winners were: 1st place - Art Prell* (Chocolate-covered Paydays); 2nd place - Margaret Prell* (Honey Pecan Bars) and 3rd place - Elaine Abbott. The Honey Contest winners were divided into two classes, light and dark: Light: 1st place: Jerry Burg (Metairie); 2nd place: Mary Brasseaux (Zachary); 3rd place: Daniel Williamson (Fort Necessity). Dark: Mary Brasseaux (Zachary); 2nd place: Jimmy Melancon (Gueydan); 3rd place: Dennis Burns (St. Joseph).
There's a girl hiding behind that artful bee box

Internet Sites You Might Find Useful

- **Scientific Beekeeping.com** [Randy Oliver’s site]
- **Bee Informed Partnership:** beeinformedteam@gmailcom
  Bee Informed Partnership has posted a new item, 'JOIN THE P. APIUM PROJECT! - A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT TO TEST OUT A NEW HONEY BEE PROBIOTIC'
  Dr. Vanessa Corby-Harris from the USDA-ARS is currently enrolling participants in a study to look at the effects of a probiotic, *Parasaccharibacter apium* (or *P. apium*) on colony health. In both lab and small-scale field studies, she sees a potential benefit of *P. apium* to colony health. Bees supplemented with this bacterium can survive better [...]
  You may view the latest post at http://beeinformed.org/2016/01/12/join-the-p-apium-project-a-citizen-science-project-to-test-out-a-new-honey-bee-probiotic/
- **American Bee Journal – January 2016.** EPA Releases the First of Four Preliminary Risk Assessments for Insecticides Potentially Harmful to Bees.  *First-of-its-kind assessment delivers on President Obama’s National Pollinator Strategy.*  EPA encourages stakeholders and interested members of the public to visit the imidacloprid docket and sign up for email alerts to be automatically notified when the agency opens the public comment period for the pollinator-only risk assessment. The risk assessment and other supporting documents will be available in the docket today at:
  http://americanbeejournal.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=0658bd0fe6&e=8a28c249
  EPA is also planning to hold a webinar on the imidacloprid assessment in early February. The times and details will be posted at:  http://americanbeejournal.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=14e3907044&e=8a28c249
Articles of Interest

Synopsis of Randy Oliver’s talk on varroa mites [refer to: “Internet Sites You Might Find Useful” for his website where you will find a host of useful information]
- for enhanced viewing you might wish to view the following in a larger format
TREATMENT OPTIONS:

“Natural” treatments
- **Likely more sustainable**
- Thymol and essential oils
- Organic acids: Oxalic and Formic

**Formic Acid**
- Vaporization of is temperature dependent
- Kills mites under cappings - penetrates cappings
- May be used as drip or in pads
- Can be applied while honey supers are on
- Zero residues
- No legacy problems with queens
- Eliminates tracheal mite
- Decades of proven efficacy

**MAQS** — (Mite Away Quick Strip) Use 2 strips; OK with honey on; Kills a few queens; Use caution in hot weather; Brood break (may be a good thing); May kill poor queens; Handling issues

**Oxalic acid**
- Naturally occurring in nature; wood bleach – crystals
Bayou Bee Bulletin

- Low efficacy when brood present
- Overdose can harm colonies
- Inexpensive and can be used as a drip or vapor; does not penetrate cappings
- When applied as a vapor (ex. Varrox vaporizer), fumes can be deadly; when applied safely and properly it is very safe to the applicator (mask and goggles)
- High efficacy during brood break – early spring and late fall
- Doesn’t appear to harm queens
- Temperature independent
- Decades of proven efficacy
- Effective when no brood are present; expensive and difficult to use.

**Thymol**
- Vaporization of is temperature dependent
- May be used as drip, as baits or in pads
- Use while brood is present

**Hopguard II**
- Used when broodless – early spring and late fall

**Apiguard**, **Apivar**, **Thymovar**, **Apilife VAR**, **Amitraz** and **Homemade Concoctions**

- These (*) are time-release management methods (*); are used when brood is present
- **Apivar** takes up to 4 strips and may not be effective
- **Amitraz** disrupts varroa reproductive success but takes weeks to be effective

**Essential Oils**
- May disrupt mite reproductive success

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**Oxalic Acid Treatment Table**

Be sure to read "Oxalic Acid – Questions and Answers" and "The Learning Curve – Part 2" before using oxalic acid. It is critical to apply it correctly, or you risk seriously harming your bees!

**Important Note:** the following proportions refer to common oxalic acid dihydrate (wood bleach). If you manage to get your hands on pure laboratory oxalic acid, you must reduce the amount of acid to less than 1/100th of that of the dihydrate.

Also note that if you use hard water, some of the oxalic acid will precipitate as calcium oxalate, and then reduce the efficacy you had only seen the white precipitate if this is the case.

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<td>Dist. Water</td>
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Notes:
- Oxalic crystals must be measured by weight.
- Sugar and water are about the same by weight or volume (1 pint of granulated sugar or water will weigh 1 lb). Use the exact dose!
### Varroa Treatment Concept:

It’s better, and easier, to keep mite levels down, rather than to bring them down from a high level!

Practice some sort of rotation of treatments

- Formic
- Amitraz
- Oxalic
- Thymol

Don’t breed for resistant mites!

“The only way to halt the development of resistance to a certain product is by interrupting its use in the control strategy.”

‘Neonic’ Pesticide Harms Bees in Some Cases, EPA says – by Seth Borenstein, Associated Press

“WASHINGTON – A major pesticide harms honeybees when used on cotton and citrus but not on other big crops like corn, berries and tobacco, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found.

It’s the first scientific risk assessment of the much-debated class of pesticides called neonicotinoids and how they affect bees on a chronic long-term basis.

The EPA found in some cases the chemical didn’t harm bees or their hives but in other cases it posed a significant risk. It mostly depended on the crop, a nuanced answer that neither clears the way for an outright ban nor is a blanket go-ahead for continued use. Both the pesticide maker and anti-pesticide advocates were unhappy with the report.

The issue is important because honeybees are in trouble and they do more than make honey. They are crucial to our food supply: About one-third of the human diet comes from insect-pollinated plants, and the honeybee is responsible for 80 percent of that pollination.

Some advocacy groups target neonicotinoids – the chemical works on insects’ central nervous systems and are often called “Neonics” – and call for bans on the chemicals. Recent studies have pointed to problems and pesticide makers dispute those studies and this one from the EPA.

Europe banned the pesticide class, then lifted the ban.

“Don’t expect any future action on this pesticide to solve the dwindling bee problem because it’s not just this pesticide alone, but a complicated puzzle that includes lack of food for bees, parasites, disease and the way different pesticide and fungicides interact”, said bee expert May Berenbaum at the University of Illinois.

“Anything to reduce stress on bees is helpful,” said University of Maryland entomologist Dennis vanEngelsdorp. “I am not convinced that neonics are a major driver of colony loss.”

[SEE: “Internet Sites You Might Find Useful” for additional contact information]
Please Renew Your LBA Membership

LBA memberships have almost doubled over the last two years. The LBA is excited about this growth and sincerely appreciates your membership support. If you have not completed and submitted your membership renewal for 2016, please use the membership application at the end of this newsletter and send your renewal to our treasurer as soon as possible. Please don’t delay any longer and renew your LBA membership today.

Please feel free to make additional copies of this Bulletin and provide them to others interested in beekeeping and our organization. Reading the information provided below by our membership chairman will help you join us in our recruiting efforts by participating in our “Clubs Get A Member Campaign.” Prizes are awarded to the top Club annually! The new campaign begins November 1st, 2015 and ends October 31st, 2016.

There are many challenges facing beekeepers. Our organization provides a voice to Louisiana beekeepers and lets state government know that we are an important part of Louisiana’s agricultural industry. There is strength in numbers, so help us help you through your membership support!

To register or renew your membership, go to the LBA website:
On the left side of the page select the icon, "Join/Re-New the LBA".
At the top of the next page, select one of the two icons, "Join LBA" or "Renew".

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Membership dues are $10/year/individual and/or family. Your contact for mailing dues will be:

David Ferguson
P.O. Box 716
Brusly, LA 70719
Ph. 225-726-1664
E-mail Address: dwferguson315@cox.net
dave@labeekeepers.org

There are many challenges facing beekeepers. Our organization provides a voice to Louisiana beekeepers and lets state government know that we are an important part of Louisiana’s agricultural industry. There is strength in numbers, so help us help you through your membership support!

The winner for the member get a member for 2015 is Dr. Rhea Jones from the Beekeepers of Tangi-Tamington Club.
Commercial Business Ads Information

The Louisiana Beekeepers Association would like to thank all of our sponsors for their business advertisements. We encourage our membership and visitors to our web site to consider the fine products and/or services they offer when selecting a vendor to fulfill their business and/or personal needs.

Over the past five years the number of our newsletter advertisers has steadily increased. In appreciation for their support the LBA has offered vendor booths to these advertisers at our annual State Convention free of charge. Vendor displays have also increased, providing our guests with a convenient venue for purchasing the beekeeping products they might need. These vendors in turn contribute door prizes and auction items to the LBA, making the event more enjoyable for our guests. Those who pre-purchase supplies through the vendors can have them delivered and avoid shipping charges.

Advertising is an important marketing tool for beekeepers and your beekeeping business is important to the Louisiana Beekeepers Association. Give us an opportunity to provide a portion of your advertising needs in 2015.

Remember, for only $25.00 annually you can advertise your company products in six issues of the Bayou Bee Bulletin. Your business ad will also be carried on our web site, labeekeepers.org. Remit your advertising fee to LBA Treasurer, Mr. David Ferguson, P. O. Box 716, Brusly, LA 70719 and forward your company’s camera ready, 4 inch by 3 inch jpeg ad image to Mr. Tim Haley, LBA Newsletter Editor, at: tamh212@suddenlink.net
Honey Bee Removal

Houses, Buildings, Trees, etc.

Robert G. Taylor, Sr.
Licensed Beekeeper

Louisiana Registration # 14-0930

38233 Lee’s Landing road
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Phone:  985-386-4647

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Commercial Business Ads Continued

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<th>CITY, LA</th>
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LOUISIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR 2016

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**LOCAL BEEKEEPING CLUBS**

and

**CURRENT PRESIDENTS/CONTACTS 2016**

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<td>Pat Doguet</td>
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<td>Mike Welch</td>
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<td>44116 Stringer Bridge Rd. St. Amant, LA 70774-3942</td>
<td>221 Westwind Church Rd. Campti, LA 71411</td>
<td>1115 S. Lake Arthur Ave Jennings, LA 70546</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph. 337-873-6258</td>
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<td>8266 Thurman Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70808</td>
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<td>1498 Mock Road West Monroe, LA 71292</td>
<td>3023 Pine Needle Drive Sulphur, LA 70663</td>
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<td>Ph. 225-270-9740</td>
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<tr>
<th>MISS-LOU</th>
<th>RIVER REGION OF LA</th>
<th>RUSTON-LINCOLN</th>
<th>SOUTHWEST LA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Ensminger</td>
<td>Julian Laine, Jr.</td>
<td>Brent Gay</td>
<td>Richard Hebert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 Airport road</td>
<td>1307 N. Florida Street</td>
<td>Address Needed</td>
<td>4456 Hwy 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidalia, LA 71373</td>
<td>Covington, LA 70433</td>
<td>Ph. 318-235-8241</td>
<td>DeRidder, LA 70634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph. 318-481-1740</td>
<td>E-mail Address: <a href="mailto:jr.buzz@hotmail.com">jr.buzz@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>E-mail Address:</td>
<td>Ph. 337-462-0326</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail Address:</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Brentgay1@yahoo.com">Brentgay1@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>E-mail Address: <a href="mailto:rphebert@hughes.net">rphebert@hughes.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:gensminger344@Hotmail.com">gensminger344@Hotmail.com</a></td>
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| TANGI-TAMINTON    |                                  |                    |                               |
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