By now beekeepers are resuming their honey flows, most beekeepers spring honey flows were clipped with the heavy rains in April. Hopefully this will bring great summer nectar and plenty of honey with good colony populations. The tallow trees look healthy and flows seem to be excellent.

The Louisiana Beekeepers Association is holding a board meeting at the end of May. We are planning our annual convention which will be held in West Monroe on December 4th and 5th of this year. We have started to make early confirmations with Randy Oliver and Blake Shook which are flexible at this point. We are all working hard to make this a fantastic event this year and any ideas would be appreciated, just contact any of the board members. We are also starting to plan our annual Field Day in October at the Baton Rouge Honey Bee Laboratory. This has been in strong demand and growing every year. If you have any suggestions feel free to give them to any of the board members.

The American Honey Producers have just returned from Washington D.C., which I was among them lobbying for our issues. A brief recap can be given as follows: President Obama had a Pollinator Task force formed in 2014 to help our industry through our crisis. They are implementing a million pollinator gardens across America which is still in the beginning phases of how the criteria would follow. A Proposal from the President to the Congressional Appropriations for additional research money, which we pushed through the Appropriate Committees. The Proposal included an additional 25 million for USDA/NIFA (University grants for research can tap this), an additional 7 million for USDA/ARS for research and 5 hundred thousand more for USDA/NASS for more accurate statistics. Of course this has to be passed through congress and the Appropriations are not getting any more increases but indicated working something out. I am sure we will be getting an increase I am not sure how much at this point. Next week is the start of their markup. We should be getting a better idea then. Also the Task Force is having the EPA to evaluate risk assessments. We also worked on our pesticide issues through EPA and Congress. This will be lengthy to see results but is encouraging that we are pursuing answers.

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

Joe Sanroma, President
In this newsletter we will be presenting:

- **Dear Bee** – two memo/letters were submitted
- Internet sites you might find useful
- Articles of Interest
  - White House Lays Out Ambitious Plan to Save Bees.
  - Language Protecting Pollinators To Expand beyond Neonic Labels
  - EPA Registered a New Insecticide: Flupyradifurone
  - EPA Okays Oxalic Acid for Varroa Mite Control
- Renew your LBA membership
- Commercial Business Advertisements
- Listing of the LBA Board of Directors
- Listing of LA Honey Bee Clubs and their presidents’ contact listing

**Dear Bee** (per last month’s request for input from the LBA membership)

From Steven Barney ([info@beetle-experience.com](mailto:info@beetle-experience.com)):

Dear Beekeepers,

This is Steven Barney, "beetle guy" from Lafayette. We are looking for someone to put together and exhibit a bee-related display for Insect Day at the Arboretum on Sat. July 11th. This is a free, open-to-the-public event where institutions like Audubon Insectarium and LSU LSAM setup live and preserved displays.

The Arboretum is located within Chicot State Park and they have a nice, air conditioned space for us to use. This is one of the largest insect-related events in Louisiana and it has taken place every year since 2011.

I am contacting a few of you at the same time, so we will have to give the spot to the first person to reply. You can also do sales but would have to be self-contained.

If you have any questions please let me know. Please see our photo galleries to get a better idea of the event:

Website:
InsectDay.com

Facebook:

Thank you,
Steven Barney
From: Virginia & Carl (mtnhoney@windstream.net) – received April 22, 2015

To: Tim Haley, LBA’s BBB’s editor in chief

Thank you for speaking with me this evening, this is Virginia Webb with the American Beekeeping Federation. For over a year I have been working with this team to bring the Apimondia International Congress (World Beekeeping Federation) to the United States in 2019. Winning the bid for the Apimondia Beekeeping Congress for 2019 is the perfect way to showcase our industry as never before. We would appreciate your willingness to bring this attached information to your local beekeeping club for consideration of making a donation to the USA’s effort to host the 2019 Apimondia.

Honeybees are in danger of disappearing from our environment. The attitudes of the public must change and the next generation needs to be educated about the important value of honeybees to agriculture and the threat to their existence. There is not one state in our nation that does not have agriculture as a vital part of its industry and economy.

One question that was asked concerning our efforts to work to win the bid for hosting an Apimondia, was why should beekeepers contribute to the efforts of the USA Apimondia Bid Team? By supporting the efforts to bring the World Beekeeping Federation to the United States, you will be a part of highlighting the importance of the beekeeping industry to agriculture. We are not an industry that has resources to buy hundreds of thousands of dollars of positive public relations. We can only make this happen when industry representatives and the beekeepers work together. Therefore we are asking every state and local beekeepers organization to help bring this 2019 World Apimondia Congress to the United States.

All donations contributed to the USA Apimondia 2019 bid will be used for:

- Set up and maintaining of Apimondia USA Bid for 2019 website
- Producing a USA Apimondia movie
- Hosting international Apimondia officials for site inspection of the host city
- ApiExpo booth and set up in Deajeon, South Korea
- Official bid book presented to all voting Apimondia delegates
- USA promotional items at the 2015 Apimondia
- Special event for attendees in Deajeon, South Korea (over 4,000)

Please consider joining other state and local beekeeping organizations in making even a modest donation (of $50 to $100 dollars) toward achieving our goal. We cannot do this on our own.
No other insect can more efficiently pollinate our fruits, vegetables, nuts, rape seeds, brambles and grasslands than the honeybee. Keeping a healthy and strong beekeeping industry is the beginning of a strong agriculture market.

You are welcome to contact me if you have any questions or would like to know more about our efforts.

Sincerely,

Virginia S. Webb

USA Apimondia Bid Team, Finance/Budget
349 Gastley Road, Clarkesville, GA 30523
Phone: 706-754-7062
Email: MtnHoney@windstream.net

Information regarding input from the LBA
As of this BBB, no-one from the LBA membership has submitted any monthly gadgets, pictures or plans or anything they’d like listed to be sold.

I also have not received a listing of beekeepers in the various areas of the state/clubs that would be willing/able to assist other beekeepers (other than the CENLA Beekeeping Club*) and create a forum for questions and answers section in the newsletter. This is a great idea and I will do that, providing I receive input from the membership. Send me your questions/comments and I will post them.

*Regarding the CENLA area (Alexandria/Pineville), beekeepers can contact myself or through our club, I will direct them to members who might be able to assist them.

I’ve not received anything regarding items for sale, but as mentioned in last month’s BBB, “The Market Bulletin is published by the Market Development Division and is a free source for advertising your equipment and products: advertisements are free subject to existing regulations. Out-of-state residents may list Want Ads only. Ads may not exceed 25 words. The name, address and telephone number as well as the price of the item must be included with each advertisement.” There is more to be found at the following two web sites (P.S. Check out the December 25, 2014’s issue for three advertisements for the sale or wanted of beekeeping equipment).
Internet Sources you may find useful

www.pollinatorfacts.org

**Pollinator Facts Website** is the exclusive site for National Pest Management Association members to access information that will assist you in understanding national, state and local pollinator issues. Additionally, this site is intended to provide you with resources and information to help educate your employees and your customers.


---


**Scientists discover what’s killing the bees and it’s worse than you thought.** By: Todd Woody July 25, 2013

“As we’ve written before, the mysterious mass die-off of honey bees that pollinate $30 billion worth of crops in the US has so decimated America’s *Apis mellifera* population that one bad winter could leave fields fallow. Now, a new study has pinpointed some of the probable causes of bee deaths and the rather scary results show that averting beemageddon will be much more difficult than previously thought.” More ….

http://bumblebeeconservation.org/about-bees/faqs/honeybees-vs-bumblebees/

**The differences between bumblebees and honeybees** (Note: this site refers to the bumble bees and honey bees of Europe and the English Isles)

“There is often confusion about the differences between bumblebees and honeybees and even some of our top media channels will publish pictures of bumblebees when they are discussing/writing about honeybees. On this page we hope to clarify things a little.” More….
The Buzz About Dandelions (a dad and his son exploring the wonders of a dandelion)

Articles of interest for this BBB

White House lays out ambitious plan to save bees
(http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060018812/print)

Tiffany Stecker, E & E reporter Published: Tuesday, May 19, 2015

The White House released its comprehensive strategy to stem the steep decline in pollinators today, the start of what's likely to become a growing debate in the federal government and Congress.

The goals are ambitious: limit honeybee overwintering losses to 15 percent within 10 years; boost monarch butterfly numbers to 225 million in the insect's winter habitat in Mexico, a roughly fourfold increase from the current population; and restore and enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators over the next five years through federal actions and public-private partnerships.

To do this, federal agencies must boost research on environmental stressors to bees and butterflies; expand pollinator acreage in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which pays landowners not to farm on large tracts of land; provide seed mixes that offer plenty of blooms with good-quality pollen; and improve outreach, especially between beekeepers and farmers, according to the White House Task Force on Pollinator Health, which is headed by the Agriculture Department and U.S. EPA.

"The President has emphasized the need for an 'all hands on deck' approach to promoting pollinator health, including engagement of citizens and communities and the forging of public-private partnerships," John Holden, assistant to the president for science and technology and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, wrote in a blog post.

Beekeepers, agriculture organizations, the pesticide industry and environmentalists have been waiting for the report for nearly a year, since President Obama released his memorandum directing federal resources toward research and other actions to stave off a pollinator decline (Greenwire, June 20, 2014).

Pollinators are struggling, Holden said. A recent USDA report found beekeepers had lost more than 40 percent of their honeybee colonies last year. Despite a recent uptick, monarch butterfly populations have also suffered dramatic losses of around 90 percent (E & E News PM, Jan. 27).

Scientists say the drop in pollinators is tied to a combination of the loss of forage, poor-quality pollen, diseases, and parasites like the Varroa mite and pesticide exposure.

The strategy also calls on Congress to approve the $82 million dedicated to pollinators in Obama's fiscal 2016 budget, the bulk of which will go to USDA's research arms and the agency that administers CRP. The request is $34 million over fiscal 2015 enacted levels.

"I would say that's a down payment," Tom van Arsdall, a spokesman for the Pollinator Partnership, said on the $82 million.
About $20 billion in crops depend on pollinators for production. Beekeepers in particular have been struggling to maintain viable colonies in the last decade, Darren Cox, president of the American Honey Producers Association, said in a statement.

"As an industry we have managed pests, pathogens and other bee health challenges successfully for decades, including the varroa mite. But significant habitat loss and increasing pesticide pressures are combining with those stressors to make for an all-too-formidable opponent, even for the mighty and long resilient honey bee," Cox said.

The report fell short of addressing environmental groups' calls for restricting neonicotinoids, pesticides that absorb into a plant and can present themselves in pollen. A total of 128 groups signed a letter in March asking EPA to tighten regulations on seed treatments for neonicotinoids and speed up the timeline for reviewing the chemicals.

"The agency outlined it may consider restrictions on a broad range of foliar use products, but did not outline restrictions for pesticide coated seeds -- one of the largest uses of bee-harming pesticides," Tiffany Finck-Haynes, food futures campaigner with Friends of the Earth, said in an email. The report also doesn't address pesticide impacts on native bees, she added.

The task force report repeated EPA's position that it would review the neonicotinoids imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin and dinotefuran between now and 2017. The agency said it will propose a ban on spraying pesticides that kill bees on contact during the bloom period. EPA is also continuing to revise its study of neonicotinoid benefits on soybeans and complete similar assessments for other crops. The soybean assessment released last October, which found that neonicotinoid seed treatments offer little to no benefit to soybean producers, was criticized by the pesticide industry and was a central discussion point in a recent House Agriculture Committee hearing (E&E Daily, May 14).

EPA is also considering using state pollinator protection plans, which are designed to improve communication between beekeepers and farmers on the use of pesticides, as a mitigation strategy as it relates to legally binding pesticide label instructions. These plans are supported by the pesticide industry and are met with skepticism from beekeepers.

"We've seen some great successes from the states that have already done this as a way to really encourage local stakeholder involvement and conversation," said Jeff Donald, a spokesman with Bayer Crop Science. Bayer develops treatments for the Varroa mite, as well as neonicotinoids. But beekeepers still question the overall effectiveness of the plans, Cox said. "We very much have concerns on the reliance of state pollination protection plans," he added.

Additional reports on forage and pollinator nutrition, the effects of the Varroa mite, and crop production are expected to be released this week.
Language Protecting Pollinators To Expand beyond Neonic Labels — By Anne Nagro

[Synopsis of article – Pest Control Technology, April 2015]

- The EPA will be announcing new label language for “50 to 75 active ingredients”, (ai), considered “acutely toxic to pollinators,” said Bob Rosenberg, chief executive officer, National Pest Management Association (NPMA)
- At press time of this magazine, Bob was not sure which ai’s were being targeted by the agency, but the action could affect how 1,500 to 1,600 products can be applied.
- The White House or EPA should announce the new label requirements as soon as Earth Day (April 22). That day has passed by this letter and no word on the subject has yet been released.
- EPA wants the labels ready for the 2016 growing season, but officials were unsure how the label changes will be implemented in the short time frame.
- EPA realizes that a one-size-fits all labeling approach for all geographic areas won’t work so it’s encouraging states to develop their own pollinator protection plans. These plans will give applicators more flexibility; new labels may instruct applicators to use products in accordance with state plans. It’s in the “best interest of all states to have (pollinator protection) plans from a pesticide user’s perspective,” said Rosenberg, who encouraged state pest management associations to become involved in their development.
- Some states already have pollinator protection plans. Most will begin crafting plans once the President’s Pollinator Health Task force releases its findings and guidelines in the coming weeks, said Rosenberg.
- NPMA and Responsible Industry for a Sound environment (RISE) have worked closely with EPA and state regulator groups like the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials and the State FIFIRA Issues Research and Development Group to develop recommendation for state plans.
- At the local level, states and municipalities continue to discuss and, in some cases, enact laws and ordinances to ban or limit the use of neonicotinoids. Among them: Oregon, Arizona, Minnesota, Maryland and the province of Ontario, which plans to reduce the
acreage planted with neonic-treated seeds by 80 percent with two years. Municipalities include Seattle; Boulder, Colorado; Encinitas, California; and Montgomery County, Md.

- What can you do? In the political arena the best thing you can have is engagement from local citizens, who own businesses, pay taxes and vote in local elections. Participate in the discussion, provide support and online resources, which can be accessed (example: www.pollinatorfacts.org).

**EPA registered a new insecticide flupyradifurone**
The EPA registered a new insecticide flupyradifurone, that is “safer for bees” and an alternative to pyrethroid, neonicotinoid, organophosphate and avermectin insecticides. According to the EPA, laboratory studies indicate flupyradifurone is “practically non-toxic to adult honeybees” with no adverse effect on bee colony performance or overwintering ability compared to untreated colonies. The active ingredient is registered for crops (citrus, cotton and potatoes) to protect against piercing/sucking insects. Flupyradifurone is manufactured by Bayer CropScience.

- Senior Principal Scientist, Byron Reid of Bayer indicated that pollinator health is a major focus of Bayer. At its two Bee Care Center, “people are actively working on a number of solutions to help agricultural producers and beekeepers happily coexist.”

- According to the Bayer website, flupyradifurone is a butenolide insecticide with a distinct new chemistry and formulation concept. Like neonicotinoids, it is a systemic insecticide that acts on the target pest’ central nervous system.

- EPA reviewed 437 studies, including 38 different tests on bees to analyze the potential exposure and effects of flupyradifurone. These included evaluation of the sublethal effects of pesticides on all life stages of bees, as well as effects on colony health in field studies. The field studies examined pollinator attractive crops while bees were actively foraging after the crops had been treated through various application methods (see, soil and foliar) to demonstrate very high exposure.

- Canada is also evaluating the insecticide for registration. Environmental groups in both countries are opposed to its registration.

FYI: I received a photo from a CENLA Beekeeping Club member this spring, showing a pesticide killing of a beehive located in the Forest Hill/Woodworth, LA area. A nursery was spraying and the drift killed the hive located on an adjacent property. The beekeeper was a bit upset and wanted to know what to do and how to be recompensed. Another beekeeper was just getting one of the largest swarms he’d every caught started, and it was in its second week in a hive when his neighbor sprayed her garden. The result was the same.
EPA Okays Oxalic Acid for Varroa Mite Control (Registration Decision for the New Active Ingredient Oxalic Acid) - The American Bee Journal

Summary
This document announces the decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to register the new active ingredient oxalic acid for use against the Varroa mite, a parasite on honeybees. EPA has concluded that oxalic acid meets the regulatory standard under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). One product is registered under Section 3(c)(5) of FIFRA, "Oxalic Acid." The application for this registration was submitted by the United States Department of Agriculture. Due to the significant problems this parasite poses for honeybees, the EPA review of the application was conducted under a greatly expedited process.

Background
1. Application for Registration
The Varroa mite, *Varroa destructor*, is a serious and devastating pest of honeybee colonies. Varroa mites are parasites that feed on developing bees (larvae and pupae; brood) leading to brood mortality and the reduction of the lifespan of workers that were parasitized during
development. Varroa can affect hypopharyngeal gland development of nurse bees and decrease brood/royal jelly production affecting nutrition in developing brood and queens. Varroa also serves as a vector of numerous honeybee viruses. Thus, the health of a colony can be critically impacted by an infestation of Varroa, if the colony is not treated, it will likely die.

EPA has long been aware of the need for products to control Varroa mites. In numerous meetings and discussions with university researchers, beekeepers, and state-level policymakers, EPA learned that oxalic acid exhibits efficacy against Varroa mites and that it is currently registered in Europe and Canada.

Oxalic acid (CAS# 144-62-7) was previously registered as an antimicrobial pesticide and EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) issued a Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) in 1992. Although oxalic acid is no longer registered as a pesticide, OPP has data in-house that describes the human health effects of the compound, the environmental fate and ecotoxicology.

On November 14, 2014 EPA received the application for registration of oxalic acid from the USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Bee Research Lab (USDNARS/BRL). Under the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) the time frame for EPA to complete the review of the application for registration of a new active ingredient and make a decision is 24 months. The PRIA due date for the oxalic acid application is December 8, 2016.

In his June 20, 2014 memorandum to Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, President Obama created a federal strategy to promote the health of honeybees and other pollinators. The president highlighted specific instructions for the EPA to expedite review of registration applications for new products targeting pests harmful to pollinators. The expedited review and approval of the oxalic acid registration falls entirely in line with the Presidential direction set forth in the June 2014 memorandum.

EPA was able to expedite the evaluation of the application, in part due to a NAFTA "work share" agreement in which EPA's counterparts at Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) provided EPA risk assessors and risk managers with their data reviews. Oxalic acid was registered in Canada as an in-hive control of Varroa mites in 2010.

2. Evaluation

Oxalic acid dihydrate (the crystalline form) is a dicarboxylic acid, which is a relatively strong organic acid. Oxalic acid is ubiquitous in the environment being found naturally in many plants and vegetables, as well as in honey. It occurs naturally as the potassium or calcium salt in sap, notably in plants of the Oxalis and Rumex families. It is also a product of the metabolism of mold.

In the U.S., oxalic acid is marketed for a range of non-pesticidal uses. On the general consumer market, it is commonly known as wood bleach. As mentioned, oxalic acid was first registered as a pesticide (disinfectant/sanitizer) in 1957. When oxalic acid was evaluated for reregistration the Agency concluded in the RED that the pesticide uses of oxalic acid would not result in unreasonable adverse effects to human health or the environment and that all registered products containing oxalic acid were eligible for reregistration. (Note: The registrants of these products
Bayou Bee Bulletin

decided to voluntarily cancel them in 1994.)

The information on the evaluation of oxalic acid provided to EPA by PMRA included an updated review of the toxicity, dietary exposure, environmental fate and transport, and product chemistry data. A dietary assessment and an occupational assessment for the proposed use were also forwarded by PMRA. EPA concurs with the conclusions and registration decision made by our Canadian colleagues.

**Assessment of Risk to Human Health**

The use pattern for this compound is in bee hives when honey supers are not present. Dietary exposure from the proposed use as an in-hive application will be indistinguishable from naturally occurring levels of oxalic acid. In fact, oxalic acid is a natural constituent of honey and is commonly found in the range of 1 mg/kg to 800 mg/kg. Moreover, EPA has established an exemption from the food tolerance requirement for oxalic acid under 40 CFR 180.910. Oxalic acid is ubiquitous in the environment and exposures from use in honeybee hives will be minimal, therefore the contribution to aggregate risk from this use will be insignificant relative to the total exposure from other sources.

Additionally, in 2005 EPA confirmed the safety of oxalic acid for its use in pesticide formulations, i.e., use as a calcium chelating hard water inhibitor in pesticides applied to growing crops and to raw agricultural commodities after harvest. Oxalic acid may be used in pesticide formulations up to 2 lbs per acre (40 CFR § 180.910). In assessing this use, EPA determined that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm to any population subgroup would result from aggregate exposure to oxalic acid. By contrast, the maximum application for oxalic acid in honeybee hives is 50 mL of 2.8% oxalic acid sugar solution which is far lower than 2 lbs of 98-100% oxalic acid per acre.

In evaluating the risk to applicators, EPA notes that oxalic acid is corrosive to the eyes and skin and has been placed in Toxicity Category I, indicating the highest degree of toxicity. It is also highly irritating and damaging to the respiratory system if inhaled. Thus, the product label will carry the "Danger" signal word. In addition to the standard beekeeping suit (veil, long-sleeved shirt, long pants and gloves) as personal protective equipment, a respirator and goggles are required.

**Assessment of Ecological Risk**

Although no data have been submitted directly to EPA to assess the likelihood of adverse effects on non-target organisms from the proposed use of oxalic acid to control Varroa mites on adult bees, the Agency believes that the likelihood of non-target exposure is low given that the compound is proposed for use in the honeybee colony; environmental exposure would occur primarily through accidental spillage or leakage during application. Following the entire label and preventing accidental spillage will minimize environmental exposures.

Oxalic acid is a naturally occurring compound that degrades rapidly in the environment. It readily dissolves in water because it has a high solubility. It occurs as the oxalate ion at environmentally relevant pHs where high mobility of the ion in soil is expected to occur (as with most anions).
While there are data to demonstrate that oxalic acid can be acutely toxic to adult bees, the proposed treatment rates have been established based on research demonstrating that oxalic acid will provide effective control of mites while minimizing adverse effects to adult bees. There is evidence to suggest oxalic acid is toxic to brood. However, based on the available information, the Agency does not have any evidence that the proposed use of oxalic acid will be detrimental to the colony especially given that the use of oxalic acid is intended to reduce mite loads that could otherwise be far more detrimental to individual bee and colony survival. Given the in-hive use of the product, and the absence of exposure to non-target organisms other than the honey bee, the Agency has determined that the proposed in-hive use of oxalic acid will have no effect (NE) on federally listed threatened or endangered species and will not modify their habitat.

Based on limited exposure, the chemical’s natural occurrence and the likelihood for relatively rapid transformation under environmental conditions, the proposed use of oxalic acid is not expected to pose a significant risk to the environment.

**Critical Need**
The Varroa mite is a devastating pest of honeybees, vectoring disease and severely impacting the health of colonies throughout the U.S. When populations of mites measured within a hive are greater than 3 mites per 100 bees treatment is recommended. If an infested colony is not treated, it will likely die.

The scope of this nationwide problem is evidenced by the number and the extent of applications submitted by State Lead Agencies to EPA requesting the use of unregistered pesticide products to combat this parasite. From 1999-2014, EPA has issued FIFRA Section 18 Emergency Exemptions to State Lead Agencies to provide their beekeepers with use of these unregistered products, some of which contain unregistered active ingredients. Unfortunately, the Varroa mite has quickly developed resistance to most approved pesticide tools. Over these 16 years, the number of Section 18s issued totals 723. In some years over 40 states submitted Section 18 requests. The nationwide scope of these exemptions exceeds anything ever authorized for any other pest, agricultural or otherwise.

Concluding that these efforts were in the public interest, EPA assembled the necessary data, reached out to our NAFTA partner, Canada, and worked closely with USDA to put together the oxalic acid registration submission. As directed by President Obama through his June 20, 2014 memorandum, and in acknowledgement of the critical need to make every possible control tool available, EPA has expedited the review process and this registration decision.

**Application Methods and Labeling**
Oxalic acid will be labeled for application by three different methods:

1. **By Solution to Package Bees** (Oxalic acid in sugar solution is applied as a spray to the package)
2. **By Solution to Beehives** (Oxalic acid in sugar solution is trickled between frames and other spaces)
3. Vapor Treatment of Beehives (Oxalic acid dihydrate is heated and the vapor sublimates in the hive)

The solution method and the vaporized applications are made in the late fall to early spring, when little brood is present. Additionally, honey supers are not present when applications to the hive are made. Packaged bees (small artificial swarms of broodless bees used for repopulating hives/colonies) can be treated any time before shipping or after receiving the bees before introducing them to the entire population (i.e., when brood are not present). Treatment of package bees is intended to reduce the rate at which Varroa are spread around the country. Researchers at Penn State and individual beekeepers have reported directly to EPA staff that packaged bees shipped around the country contain high levels of Varroa mites. An effective tool, such as oxalic acid, used to spray package bees before shipping or before "hiving" will limit the proliferation of Varroa in the U.S.

With the solution-method of application, oxalic acid dihydrate is dissolved into a 1:1 sugar:water solution which is directly applied to the space between frames of infested colonies. The bees can tolerate the concentration of oxalic acid in the applied solution, but the Varroa mites cannot. With the vaporization method of application, oxalic acid dihydrate crystals are heated using a specialized application device until they liquefy and vaporize. Oxalic acid vapor fills the hive and all the bees and hive interior surfaces are covered with a very thin layer of oxalic acid dihydrate crystals during sublimation. While bees tolerate these fine crystals, they are toxic to the Varroa mites.

**Efficacy and Mode of Action**

Oxalic acid is shown to be a tool with high potential benefit for control of Varroa mite in honeybee colonies. Evaluated data demonstrated that Oxalic Acid Dihydrate can provide 90-99% control of Varroa mites in honeybee colonies when either the sugar solution treatment or vaporization application methods are used in the late fall to early spring, and for treating packaged bees to ensure that a beekeeper is not introducing phoretic mites into healthy hives. At this time, the mode of action of oxalic acid is not entirely understood. Most researchers, however, state that the mode of action is unknown and it has not been classified by the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee.

Since Varroa populations have quickly developed resistance to registered chemicals, the Agency required the following language on the label that advises pesticide users to manage applications effectively to minimize the likelihood of developing resistance to oxalic acid or any chemical used in hives to control Varroa mites.

*Any Varroa mite population has the potential to become resistant to acaricides. Resistance development is affected by both the frequency of application and rate/dose of application. Continued reliance on a single class of miticide or single miticide with the same mode of action will select for resistant individuals which may dominate the mite population in subsequent generations. In order to prevent resistance development and to maintain the usefulness of individual acaricides it is important to adopt appropriate resistance management strategies.*
To delay resistance:

- When possible, rotate the use of miticides to reduce selection pressure as compared to repeatedly using the same product, mode or action or chemical class. If multiple applications are required, use a different mode of action each time before returning to a previously-used one.

- Base miticide use on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This includes proper pest identification, monitoring for locality specific economic threshold and economic injury levels, record keeping, and utilizing all available control practices (cultural, biological and chemical).

- Maximize efficacy by following all label instructions including dosage and timing of application.

Public Comments

On February 4, 2015 EPA published a Notice of Receipt (NOR) in the Federal Register of an application for the registration of oxalic acid and announced a public comment period of 30 days, a statutory requirement. During the 30 day comment period for the NOR, the Agency published the proposed regulatory decision for the unconditional registration of oxalic acid and announced a public comment period of 15 days, both comment periods closed on the same day, March 6, 2015. Comments from both the NOR and the proposed decision are summarized below and have been considered in formulating the Agency's final regulatory decision for oxalic acid.

Nearly 250 comments were received in support of the Agency's proposed decision to unconditionally register oxalic acid for use in honeybee hives to control Varroa mites. Six comments were submitted opposing the Agency's decision, however there were no compelling arguments or scientific evidence provided in these comments which influence the Agency's decision. One comment stated all chemicals are toxic and harmful to the environment (no evidence or data were submitted), one comment was from a hobbyist beekeeper who himself does not use chemicals in his hives and believes no one should, and four additional comments stated their opposition but provided no scientific evidence or regulatory basis opposing the Agency's decision.

Regulatory Decision

In cooperation with our regulatory partners in Canada, the evaluation of the application for registration of oxalic acid was completed as a work share. Considering the assessed risk to human health and the environment, the Agency concludes that oxalic acid meets the regulatory standard under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). There are no outstanding data requirements for oxalic acid. Therefore, the EPA is granting the unconditional registration of oxalic under Section 3(c)(5) of FIFRA.
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 2015, please use the membership application at the end of this newsletter and send your renewal to our treasurer as soon as possible. The January issue of our newsletter was your last issue if you allowed your membership to expire. 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 “Member Get A Member Campaign.” Prizes are awarded to the top three recruiters annually! The new campaign begins November 1st, 2014 and ends October 31st, 2015.

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:  http://www.labeekeepers.org/
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".
Commercial Business Ads

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.
Honey Bee Removal
Houses, Buildings, Trees, etc.

Robert G. Taylor, Sr.
Licensed Beekeeper

Louisiana Registration # 14-0930

38233 Lee’s Landing road
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Phone: 985-386-4647

Hummer & Son
100% Pure Louisiana Honey

WILLIAM S. HUMMER
287 Sligo Road
Bossier City, LA 71112

Phone: 318/742-3541 Fax: 318/752-9090
www.hummerandsonhoney.com
WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS
Commercial Accounts Welcome
Authorized Mann Lake Dealer

Spinwood Studio, LLC
Hand Made Sterling Silver Jewelry
- Bracelets, Earrings, Pendants -
Any Silver or Copper Design Possible

Andy Leonard
58210 Gwin Road
Slide, LA 70460
Ph. 985-643-4167
andy:judy@bellsouth.net

Golden Bee Products
Totally Ventilated Beekeeper Suits

New Invention & Breakthrough!

Susie Lemoine
344% Aris Avenue
Metairie, LA 70005
www.goldenbeeproducts.com

To Place Orders Call: 504 456-8805 or 504 715-7947
Include height, weight, & glove size (M, L, XL), shipping address and phone number
Commercial Business Ads Continued

MERRIMACK VALLEY APIARIES, INC.

Wesley Card  
Five Frame Nucs, Beeswax, & Honey  
Available for Pickup at Two Locations  
1062 Hwy 1176  3258 Koll Road  
Bunkie, LA 71322  Jennings, LA 70546  
Phone: 978 667-5380  
www.mvabeepunchers.com

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS  
BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES  
FULTON ARKANSAS  
870-896-2200  
hivesandhoney4u@yahoo.com  
www.swarbeesupplies.com  
ALL TYPES OF BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES  
JAMES & RITA LAMB-OWNERS

New for 2014!  
Now offering 8 frame equipment.  
The Original Freeman Beetle Trap in 8 Frame size PLUS Hive Bodies, Supers and More. Made from rot and insect resistant Cypress.  
www.eheartwood.com  
Toll Free 888-490-9046  
335 Mangum Drive • Star, MS 39167

THE REVOLUTION BOX  
INNOVATIVE DESIGN  
SHASTINA MILLWORK  
Any Size  
Any Quantity  
Superior Strength  
Same box dimensions  
Same frame nest dimensions  
Replaceable frame nest part coming soon

Apiary  
Beekeeping Supplies, Inc.  

James & Susan Crihfield  
See Us On Facebook!  
207 Fairview Road  
Crossett, AR 71635  
Phone: 870 305-1125  Fax: 870 305-1126  
www.apiarybeekeepingsupplies.com

Sunshine Honey Bees  
formerly Wilson’s Apiaries  
Donna Sanroma  
Phone: 318-794-6961  

Laying Queens Available Spring  
2015  
Call for pricing & shipping quote
Commercial Business Ads Continued

Manufacturers of Beekeeping Supplies Since 1863

Dadant
Welcome to Dadant and Sons, Inc.

Ideal Products for the Smaller Producer!

Branch Sales Office
P. O. Box 146
1169 Bonham Street
Paris, TX 75460

Your One-Stop Shopping Center for Bee Supplies

Phone: 1 877 632-3268 (toll free)
Phone: 903 784-6145
Fax: 903 784-2161

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 2014.

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.
# LOUISIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC.

## OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>E-MAIL ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESIDENT</strong></td>
<td>Joe Sanroma</td>
<td>1062 Hwy. 1176 Bunkie, LA 71322</td>
<td>318/346-2805 (O)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lajoeehc@aol.com">lajoeehc@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VICE PRESIDENT</strong></td>
<td>Jennifer Brown</td>
<td>P.O. Box 409 Ferriday, LA 71334</td>
<td>601/493-3447</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ashland6400@me.com">ashland6400@me.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECORDING SECRETARY</strong></td>
<td>Tam Corbett</td>
<td>4400 Hwy. 569 Ferriday, LA 71334</td>
<td>318/757-6272</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tam@labeekeepers.org">tam@labeekeepers.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TREASURER</strong></td>
<td>David Ferguson</td>
<td>P.O. Box 716 Brusly, LA 70719</td>
<td>225/726-1664 (C)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwferguson315@cox.net">dwferguson315@cox.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford Brantley</td>
<td>504 W. Harrison Street</td>
<td>Jefferson, TX 75657-1016</td>
<td>903/665-8343 (H)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Card</td>
<td>3258 Koll Road</td>
<td>Jennings, LA 70546</td>
<td>978/210-1893 (C)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wesleycard@yahoo.com">wesleycard@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bud Evans</td>
<td>332 Island Road</td>
<td>Elm Grove, LA 71051</td>
<td>318/746-6320 (H)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beezz4@aol.com">beezz4@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Fair</td>
<td>611 Evans Loop</td>
<td>Mansfield, LA 71052</td>
<td>318/872-2682 (H)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:randy@beebumbler.com">randy@beebumbler.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Frierson</td>
<td>9246 Arnold Road</td>
<td>Denham Springs, LA 70726</td>
<td>225/241-6132 (C)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beefrierson53@hotmail.com">beefrierson53@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy J. Haley</td>
<td>212 Charles Preuett Road</td>
<td>Dry Prong, LA 71423</td>
<td>318/640-4856 (H)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tamh212@suddenlink.net">tamh212@suddenlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Hoag, Jr.</td>
<td>1115 S. Lake Arthur Avenue</td>
<td>Jennings, LA 70546</td>
<td>337/824-0937 (H)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wwhoagjr@charter.net">wwhoagjr@charter.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Overbey</td>
<td>211 South Weir St</td>
<td>Bunkey, LA 71332</td>
<td>318-359-8657</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thedrifter1256@yahoo.com">thedrifter1256@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</td>
<td>Margaret Prell</td>
<td>104 Charwood Drive</td>
<td>863-3641</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martp@bellsouth.net">martp@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Taylor, Sr.</td>
<td>38233 Lee’s Landing Rd</td>
<td>Ponchatoula, LA 70454</td>
<td>985/969-4647 (H)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rt@honeybeeremoval.com">rt@honeybeeremoval.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Weeks</td>
<td>1498 Mock Road</td>
<td>West Monroe, LA 71292</td>
<td>318/503-2022 (H)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:myfavoritethoney@gmail.com">myfavoritethoney@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## LBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2014
## LOCAL BEEKEEPING CLUBS AND CURRENT PRESIDENTS/CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Address/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACADIANA</td>
<td>Unknown – if someone from the club knows the president, please contact Tim Haley, editor – Bayou Bee Bulletin Thank you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASCENSION PARISH</td>
<td>Michael Bourgeois</td>
<td>44116 Stringer Bridge Road St. Amant, LA 70774-3942 Ph. 225/323-3963; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:bourged@eatel.net">bourged@eatel.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARK-LA-TEX</td>
<td>Mike Welch</td>
<td>221 Westwind Church Road Campti, LA 71411 Ph. 318/875-2610; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:mwelch@cp-tel.net">mwelch@cp-tel.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYOU</td>
<td>Warren Hoag, Jr.</td>
<td>1115 S. Lake Arthur Avenue Jennings, LA 70546 Ph. 337/824-0937; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:wwhoagjr@charter.net">wwhoagjr@charter.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPITAL AREA</td>
<td>Chris Frink</td>
<td>8266 Thurman Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70808 Ph. 225/270-9740; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:chris.frink@yahoo.com">chris.frink@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENLA</td>
<td>Timothy J. Haley</td>
<td>300 Grady Britt Dr. (LSUA) Alexandria, LA 71302 Ph. 318/419-7270; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:tamh212@suddenlink.net">tamh212@suddenlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HILL COUNTRY</td>
<td>Amy Weeks</td>
<td>704 Cypress Street West Monroe, LA 71291 Ph. 318/503-2022; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:myfavoritethoney@gmail.com">myfavoritethoney@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISS-LOU</td>
<td>Ken Ensminger</td>
<td>250 Airport Road Vidalia, LA 71373 Ph. 318/481-1740; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:gfensminger344@hotmail.com">gfensminger344@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIVER REGION OF LA</td>
<td>Julian Lane, Jr.</td>
<td>1307 N. Florida Street Covington, LA 70433 Ph. 985/635-1440; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:jr.buzz@hotmail.com">jr.buzz@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSTON-LINCOLN PARISH</td>
<td>Tom Faber</td>
<td>1511 N. Trenton Street Ruston, LA 71270 Ph. 318/251-2319; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:tfaber@twinoaksinc.com">tfaber@twinoaksinc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW LA</td>
<td>Richard Hebert</td>
<td>4456 Hwy 27 DeRidder, LA 70634 Ph. 337/462-0326; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:rphbert@hughes.net">rphbert@hughes.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANGI-TAMINGTON</td>
<td>Kevin Mixon</td>
<td>29909 Elmore McKigney Ln. Springfield, LA 70464 Ph. 985/320-5019; E-Mail: <a href="mailto:komixon74@gmail.com">komixon74@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>