



APRIL 2009

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



What's happening in Taranaki

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers,

These latest few days have been more like Summer than Autumn but it has given those of us who have still to gather honey the opportunity to do it with relative ease as many of the hive bees are in the field foraging. There are not a lot of nectar sources available at this time of the year but I notice that the Hoheria is in full bloom and attracting a lot of attention from my bees. Another plant that has an abundance of flowers with freely flowing nectar is the ordinary common ivy! You will also notice that it attracts a lot of other insects too like blowflies and wasps. Try to see if you can detect the direction that the wasps go in when leaving and you may discover their nest in the ground. If you do, and destroy it, you will probably stop many queen wasps from hibernating over the winter and there-by reducing the wasp population next season.

Our Field Day to take off the honey from the Club Hives was well attended and started with a lesson on how to start a quad when the pull-start cord is missing. After going through the motions we managed to collect four supers for extraction and a quick dry run for extraction was given. Lester provided a list of the Club Gear for hire and a note on how to easily clean the extractor for the next hirage.

By now I expect all of you will have extracted your honey, have put back the 'wets' for the bees to clean up and hopefully have the comb supers in storage ready for use next year. Before you store combs and supers give them a good clean by scraping them clear of all wax and propolis. It is much easier to manipulate frames in an inspection when they are freely mobile and it doesn't upset the bees by jarring the frame or super.

Close the entrances down to about an inch or two to prevent foreign insects from invading including bees from neighbouring hives as food is becoming scarce now and it is easy to start robbing if your inspection takes too long or you are careless with burr comb lying in the grass surrounding the hive.

If you haven't requeened by now - don't! We have just had a cold spell and there are very few drones left in the hives now and warm queen mating days are probably past so she could become a drone layer if she is tolerated by the rest of the colony. If your hive has become queenless then your best plan is to combine it with another weaker hive using the newspaper method .

Our next meeting will be in the Plunket Rooms opposite the Warehouse on Monday 20th April at 6.30pm. Bring your problems and a friend - see you there ! Adrian.

Next club meeting

20th APRIL 2009

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Beeswax Candles Recommended for Asthma, Allergies

Do Beeswax Candles Clean the Air?

By Valerie Reiss, Beliefnet.com, 3/23/2009

There's something so soothing about a nice flickering candle--in the tub, at dinner, before bed, or on your altar if you have one. But for years now I've been careful to avoid burning anything but soy wax and beeswax because of the polluting nature of regular paraffin candles--both in the larger environmental sense and the home/body toxin sense.

According to an article in the M.D.-written "Nutrition and Healing" newsletter, "paraffin is made from the sludge at the bottom of barrels of crude oil, which is then treated and bleached with benzene and other chemical solvents to 'clean it up' for use in candles" and "the soot, smoke, and chemical residue from 'regular' candles can stick to walls, ceilings, and ventilation ducts and gets re-circulated whenever the heating/cooling system is in action, exposing you to these pollutants even when the paraffin candles aren't burning." Eww.



Not the greenest. But what I learned this weekend when I went to the awesome store Candlestock in Woodstock, New York, is that beeswax candles not only don't pollute, they may actually clean the air by emitting negative ions.

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I hit the Googlebrary when I got home and found some info to back this up. One article on Care2.com says, "Beeswax candle fuel is the only fuel that actually produces negative ions, which not only helps remove pollution from the air but increases the ratio of negative ions to positive ions, the ideal and necessary scenario for clean air." In laywoman's terms, this means they cause charged gunk (dust, pollen, odors, toxins, etc.) to fall from the air onto the floor via static electricity.

Another site that sells beeswax candles (so take with a grain of wax), says, "a pure beeswax candle burns the dust and toxic fumes from the air as they are convected through the halo'd flame, much like a catalytic converter. The dustier your house, the more 'black debris' will be deposited in the wax around the wick." So interesting! Now I must test for soot on my sweet little beeswax votives.

Beeswax candles also don't drip, don't smoke, and because of their high melting point, burn a whole lot slower. They also smell nice, naturally. The "Nutrition and Healing" article even says that "people with allergies, sinus problems, and asthma have reported significant improvement in their symptoms, breathing better and sleeping better after burning the 100 percent beeswax candles in their bedrooms for three to four hours before bedtime. One person who burned a beeswax candle all day when she was home reported that her asthma gradually went away completely."...

Lip Balm Recipes

Basic Lip Balm - Joanne Steele

- 2-1/2 tsp Beeswax
- 7 tsp Sweet Almond Oil
- 1 tsp Honey
- 1 capsule Vitamin E
- 5 drops of an essential oil

Melt the oil and beeswax together in a little pan over low heat until the beeswax is melted. Take off the stove and then add in the honey and whisk it all together. When the mixture is nearly cool add in your essential oil. Mix it up again and then pour into your lip balm container.

www.betterbee.com/resources/cosmeticrecipes.asp

Basic steps to making creamed honey

Making creamed honey is easier than many people think. Before we explain how to make creamed honey, it is important to understand what it actually is and what it is not. Creamed honey is not whipped honey. There shouldn't be any air in your creamed honey.

Creamed honey is controlled granulation of honey which results in extremely small sugar crystals. The smaller the crystals the better the creamed honey. A good creamed honey should be smooth, not grainy, like velvet on the tongue.

Here are the basic steps to making creamed honey. The first rule of making creamed honey is to have a good starter. A starter is simply creamed honey that is added to the liquid honey and serves as a template for the granulation. Your final product will only be as good as what you start with, so start with a creamed honey you like.



To begin, the liquid honey should be void of any prior granulation. It can be either freshly extracted or warmed slightly to be sure it is completely liquefied. With the honey at room temperature, blend in the starter at a ratio of about 10 parts liquid honey to 1 part starter. Thoroughly mix until the starter is evenly distributed, but take care not to mix in air. Let this set overnight to allow any small amounts of air to rise to the surface. The following day bottle into containers of your choosing; however, a wide mouth container is preferred so the creamed honey can be scooped out easily.

Once the mixture is in your containers, store in a cool place, ideally 57° F., until the honey has creamed. If it is too warm the honey will not cream properly. I have made some at home in my unheated garage in the fall when the temperature ranges from 45°-65° and had very good success.

That's it in a nutshell. Of course, the process can be more complicated, but a quality product can be produced by following the above steps. One last thing, be sure to save 1 or 2 containers to use as the starter for your next batch.

www.betterbee.com/resources/creamedhoney.html

Business for Sale

Semi-commercial Beekeeping Unit

Consists of:

54 Hives on 10 permanent sites. All sites are within 30kms of New Plymouth, fully fenced and hives are on permanent runners. Very easy access and have a variety of nectar sources including rewarewa, kamahi, pohutakawa, and clover. Elevation from 80 to 520 meters. Capable of having at least 100 hives.

All hives sold as two boxes plus honey super. All hives equipped with mite boards, queen excluders and sticky boards. All hives numbered and with written history. Have been wintered down with Bavarol strips and reducers. Ample stores. Very little, if any mite evident and no AFB as at March 2009.

15 kgs of food grade mineral oil and two fumigators, sufficient cotton ropes to service all hives.

Approximately 50 propolis mats and spaces.

Smoker and two hive tools.

50 kgs of sugar.

20 queen dividers and queen rearing kit..

45 pkts of Bavarol strips.

10 spare roofs.

5 three quarter supers.

50 sticky boards.

This is a very viable part time business with a huge potential, a loyal clientele and two lucrative retail outlets.

The branding name is available if wanted.

All enquiries to

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Club Contacts

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