

New River Valley Beekeepers Association



NRVBA.org

thehive@



A Message from the President

The Dog-Days of summer are upon us but the bees don't seem to mind at all. All the honey from the spring flow has been gathered and still there is nectar coming in. Inside the hive the queen is still going about with her daily egg laying duties. The colony continues to sustain itself and will constantly be bringing in nectar and pollen as it is available. If you have surplus honey on now is the time to take it off. This will free up some comb space and keep the bees from filling up the brood comb with nectar as they replenish those extracted supers you place back on.

The Association has two extractors available. If you need to use any of them contact Jerry Borger at twoltcols@verizon.net and reserve your dates for the extractor. Remember to clean and return the extractor to the next member in good condition and note any problems, damaged or worn parts that may need attention.

Although this has been a banner year for the bees and honey production, caution must be upheld as not to take off all of the supers of capped honey, remember a good beekeeper only takes off the "surplus honey" not the entire crop. As the summer progresses we could get into a dearth whereas no nectar is available and pollen become scarce. Without that honey, the colony will starve.. or quickly decline to numbers that will not survive a cold winter. Remember, we do get a fall flow, and this year it could be a strong flow.. time will tell.

This month we will have a lot to talk about at the upcoming meeting. We are sponsoring Michael Bush to come give a presentation to our group in August. The Annual summer "bee-fest" will be taking place later in the month and there are a few scattered events that are available to attend and represent the NRVBA.

If you haven't logged on recently.. the NRVBA website has been redesigned. Megan Klein (Jacks Daughter) has revamped the website to a more user friendly look. Right now it is still in the development stages and some of the articles are outdated. We are trying to get it all updated. If any member would like to submit an article or event to be posted to the website please send those to the Web Editor (me) at marco@vt.edu. I will then edit them and have them posted to the site.

This month's speaker will be Mark Bennett from Dadant in Chatham, He will come tell us about all the new products that Dadant has to offer this year. If anyone would like to place and order with him, he will be able to deliver it to the meeting location when he arrives. (he is limited to what he can haul in his car).

August 2

Michael Bush from Bush Bee Farms. VBI auditorium, Virginia Tech

August 11th

NRVBA Summer Bee Fest, Bisset Park in Radford from 2-7 pm

August 30

Glenn Lynn Labor day Weekend event, Glenn Lynn Va

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Membership in the NRVBA is 10.00 per member, \$15 per family for the calendar year. Dues may be paid online by c/c also, at www.nrvba.org. To pay check by mail - send to our treasurer, Jack Price, 3800 Buffalo Mtn. Rd., Willis, VA 24380.

NRVBA newsletter published monthly for the membership.

Meetings are held every second Thursday of the month at the Christiansburg Health and Human Services Building, 210 Pepper Street S. Christiansburg, VA 24073

Meeting time 7:00pm

Questions or comments can be sent to marco@vt.edu.

The Bee-friendly Garden.

Holly is on vacation this month and her articles will resume next month.



what causes CCD? we just cant figure it out? but were trying...

An Evening with Michael Bush, **The Practical Beekeeper**

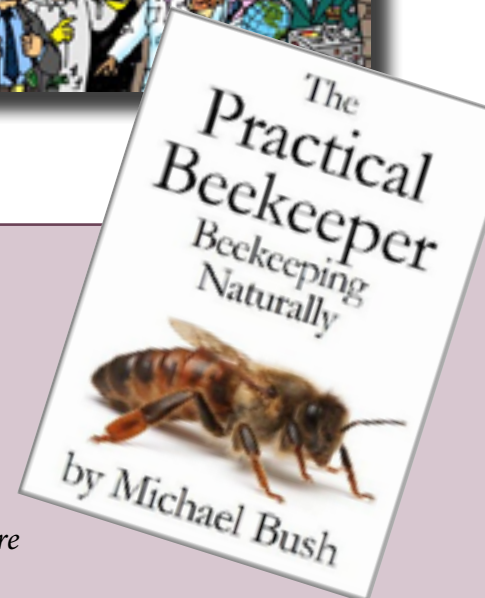
August 2, 2012, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Auditorium of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (Washington Street, Virginia Tech Campus)

FREE! No registration required.

Sponsored by the New River Valley Beekeepers' Association and the Hahn Horticulture Garden

Join **Michael Bush**, author of "**The Practical Beekeeper**" for his take on current problems and solutions in beekeeping. His strategies will help you work less and accomplish more at beekeeping. If you've never kept bees, Michael will inspire you to give it a try! In the second hour, he'll present more in-depth information for more experienced beekeepers (topic to come)

Michael Bush lives in Southeast Nebraska and his web site (www.bushfarms.com/bees) and book are highly-valued resources for beekeepers interested in alternative (and common sense) approaches to beekeeping.



MINUTES OF THE MEETING, JUNE 14, 2012
NEW RIVER VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
(NRVBA)

NRVBA President Mark Chorba called the meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
47 members in attendance.

Everette Harrell advised a bee supplies source is now available in Pearisburg, VA.

New members were introduced:
Luke and Kelly McCoy ~ son Morgan

Tim Service ~ Tim has supplied queens for years, has Carniolan and Strachan queens available. He lives in Meadows of Dan.

Mites: Mites weaken honeybees. If you think your hives are infested with mites, test with a sticky board beneath the hive. If the board collects 40-50 mites over 24 hours, the hive should be treated. Treatment is best done when minimal brood is present. Mites transmit a virus that causes deformed wings.

Sources for Queens: Mark Chorba, Richard Reid, Tim Service

Jerry Borger described a location with bees in need of extraction on Plum Creek Road. Job requires cut-out, on second floor. Jerry will help extract the bees, but needs an assistant. A cut-out will be required, on a second floor. Bring a hive body with six empty frames along and you can have the bees.

Old News:

NRV Fair: There has been no response to attend or participate in the this event. A motion was made that we pass on this opportunity, was seconded and the motion carried. NRVBA will not participate due to lack of interest.

Glenn Buss announced that a town about an hour west of Christiansburg has an event planned for Labor Day. Dave Knight will respond to the invitation.

Bee Ball: Everette and Ricky can get park. Mark motioned to accept Everette's plan; 2nd by Jerry B. 11 or 18 August, Time: 2-7. Volunteers will be needed. There will be a raffle. A committee of Everette Harrell, Mark Priest and Jack Price was formed to plan this event.

Michael Bush - Bush Apiaries: Richard contacted Michael to speak on Aug 2nd; fee is \$250. It was proposed Holly would cosponsor (Hahn Horticultural Garden). See Michael Bush's website: www.bushfarms.com

Allison Reeves, our speaker for the evening, was introduced. Allison is a first year graduate student at Virginia Tech and UNC Asheville. She works in the toxicology lab in collabora-

tion with Dr. Fell and Dr. Anderson – an inside/outside team, studying the effects of pesticides on bee colonies. Bees require carbohydrates (nectar and honey) for energy – flight takes lots of energy. Protein (pollen) is essential for brood, a lack of which causes a decrease of worker bees population. Penn State studied 800 hives for contamination by pesticides -- Chlorothalinal, Fluvalinate, etc. Study revealed these to be among the five most prevalent found in hives, wax, foundation, etc. The goal is to create a model of honeybee health. A lab in Illinois tests new foundation for contamination before it is used in hives.

Tonight's raffle yielded \$139. Raffle items included three queens donated by Arnold Rampey, eight frame woodware, smoker, lip balm kit, and a book on queens.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30

~ *Sam Price, Secretary, NRVBA*



Online beekeeping course strengthens honey bee population

Penn State University

Beginner and experienced beekeepers and those thinking about taking up backyard beekeeping can get the information they need to be successful from Beekeeping 101, a new online beekeeping course offered by Penn State Extension.

An interactive approach to online learning that can be taken anywhere and anytime, the course was created by Penn State Public Broadcasting's media professionals in collaboration with Tom Butzler, Penn State Extension horticulture educator, and Maryann Frazier, senior extension associate in entomology.

"The Beekeeping 101 online format opens up Penn State Extension's ability to broaden the access to the course internationally," said Dennis Calvin, director of Penn State Extension and associate dean in the College of Agricultural Sciences. "Whether you're in Pennsylvania or another country, you can participate in a global learning community of beekeepers helping to strengthen the honey bee population."

The 10-module course combines video, multimedia and interactive activities that participants can complete at their own pace. The modules provide basic knowledge needed to keep and manage a healthy beehive and

to produce honey and beeswax. Modules cover bee biology, bee behavior, hive management, diseases and pests, swarming, and other topics.

"We can envision school teachers using the course for professional development, and gardeners starting beekeeping as a natural extension of their hobby," said Butzler. "Whether someone is new to beekeeping or wants to add to their beekeeping knowledge, Beekeeping 101 is a fun and interactive way to learn. And don't forget about the honey you can harvest right in your backyard."

About one-third of the human diet comes from insect-pollinated plants. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the honeybee is responsible for 80 percent of the pollination for many fruits and vegetables, including apples, berries, cantaloupes, cucumbers and almonds.

Honey bees also produce about \$150 million worth of honey in the United States annually. The USDA estimates that 95 percent of the more than 200,000 U.S. beekeepers are backyard hobbyists managing fewer than 25 hives.

*"Eat honey, my child,
for it is good."
~ Proverbs 24:13*

Honey bees run the world

Larry Stritch and Jane Knowlton, U.S. Forest Service

Every time you walk into your garden to enjoy a beautiful flower or pick a fruit, think about thanking a bee, butterfly or hummingbird. These and other kinds of animals are pollinators and the subject of USDA's participation in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign.

Pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits necessary for healthy, biodiverse ecosystems. USDA assists producers in promoting wise conservation stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators, and their habitats on working lands and wildlands. More than 80 percent of the world's flowering plants require a pollinator to reproduce. Animals that assist plants in their reproduction as pollinators include: species of bats, butterflies, moths, flies, birds, beetles, ants, and bees.

Why do pollinators visit flowers? Pollinators visit flowers in search of food, mates, shelter and nest-building materials. The secret bond of the partnership is that neither plant nor pollinator populations can exist in isolation – should one disappear, the other may be one generation away from disaster.

Pollinators obtain food in the form of energy-rich nectar and/or protein-rich pollen from the flowers they visit. In return, the pollinated flowers are able to develop and produce seed.

So, the next time you enjoy a slice of watermelon or pumpkin pie, take a moment and thank the pollinator that made it all possible.





The Latest Weapon in the War on Cancer: Honey Bees

A special compound used by bees to patch their hives has been found to suppress tumor growth in mice.

Scientists from the University of Chicago Medical Center have found that a compound from honeybee hives arrests the growth of prostate tumors in mice. And the techniques the researchers used are likely to give a lot more information on how and why many natural remedies do -- or do not -- work.

Propolis is the honeybees' own caulk, used to patch holes in their hives. It's a resinous mixture that the bees obtain from trees and plants. Propolis has been used for centuries as a natural remedy for many ills, ranging from sore throats to allergies to burns. It's also shown some anti-cancer activity. But it's gained very little acceptance in the medical community because there's almost no solid evidence on how it works or if it works at all.

When CAPE was fed to the mice daily, the tumors stopped growing. When CAPE was no longer fed to them, the tumors began to grow again at their original rate.

It hasn't helped that propolis is a mixture whose chemical composition varies from hive to hive, much as honey does.

The Chicago researchers worked with a single compound from propolis called caffeic acid phenethyl ester (CAPE). They found that even small amounts of CAPE slowed the growth of tumor cell lines, isolated cells from tumors grown in the laboratory. They then tested low doses of oral CAPE in mice that had human prostate tumor

grafts. Oral CAPE slowed tumor growth by about 50 percent.

When CAPE was fed to the mice daily, the tumors stopped growing. When CAPE was no longer fed to them, the tumors began to grow again at their original rate. This suggests that CAPE works by stopping tumor cell growth, not by killing them.

The researchers were able to take a closer look at how CAPE was doing this by going back to the laboratory-cultured cells and seeing what changes occurred in the cells' proteins when CAPE was administered. To do so, they used a technique invented in 2010 called micro-western blotting, an improvement on a 40-year old technique. Traditional western blotting is a technique for separating and identifying proteins. Unfortunately, it's time consuming, expensive, requires large amounts of sample and can only look at a few proteins at once.

DNA researchers had a similar problem but solved it in the 1990s through micro-arrays, basically a miniaturization breakthrough, allowing many more samples to be run at a once and requiring smaller sample sizes. Protein researchers were able to adapt this technique for their own uses in 2010. It's now made it possible to possible to examine hundreds of proteins from a single a cell or organism at once, instead of just a few. It may eventually allow researchers to investigate the full spectrum of proteins in a cell.

Using micro-western blotting, the researchers were able to find that CAPE affected specific proteins in two pathways (p70S6 kinase and Akt) that allow a cell to sense the amount of nutrients available to it, lowering the activity of these proteins. When nutrients are low, cells stop dividing. CAPE appears to limit production of proteins that tell cells they have enough nutrients to begin dividing.

This suggests that CAPE may be a useful co-treatment alongside chemotherapies that kill tumor cells. It will take clinical tests to find out if this is true. But the techniques used by the researchers may have broader applications in increasing our understanding of herbal remedies.

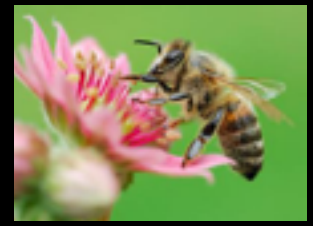
Honey has shown a definite ability to cleanse infected wounds. Yet doctors are reluctant to use it because little is known about how it works. And researchers rarely even want to study herbal remedies such as green tea or ginseng, remedies whose effectiveness remains a topic of debate. It doesn't help that these are all mixtures containing many compounds that may each have a variety of actions, unlike penicillin, which is one single compound. Micro-western blotting may help researchers identify what specific compounds in these remedies are doing at the cellular and molecular levels, increasing (or decreasing) their acceptability to Western medicine.

As well as giving protein researchers a chance to catch up with their fellow DNA researchers.

credit: <http://www.theatlantic.com>



The Annual NRVBA Bee-Fest 2012..

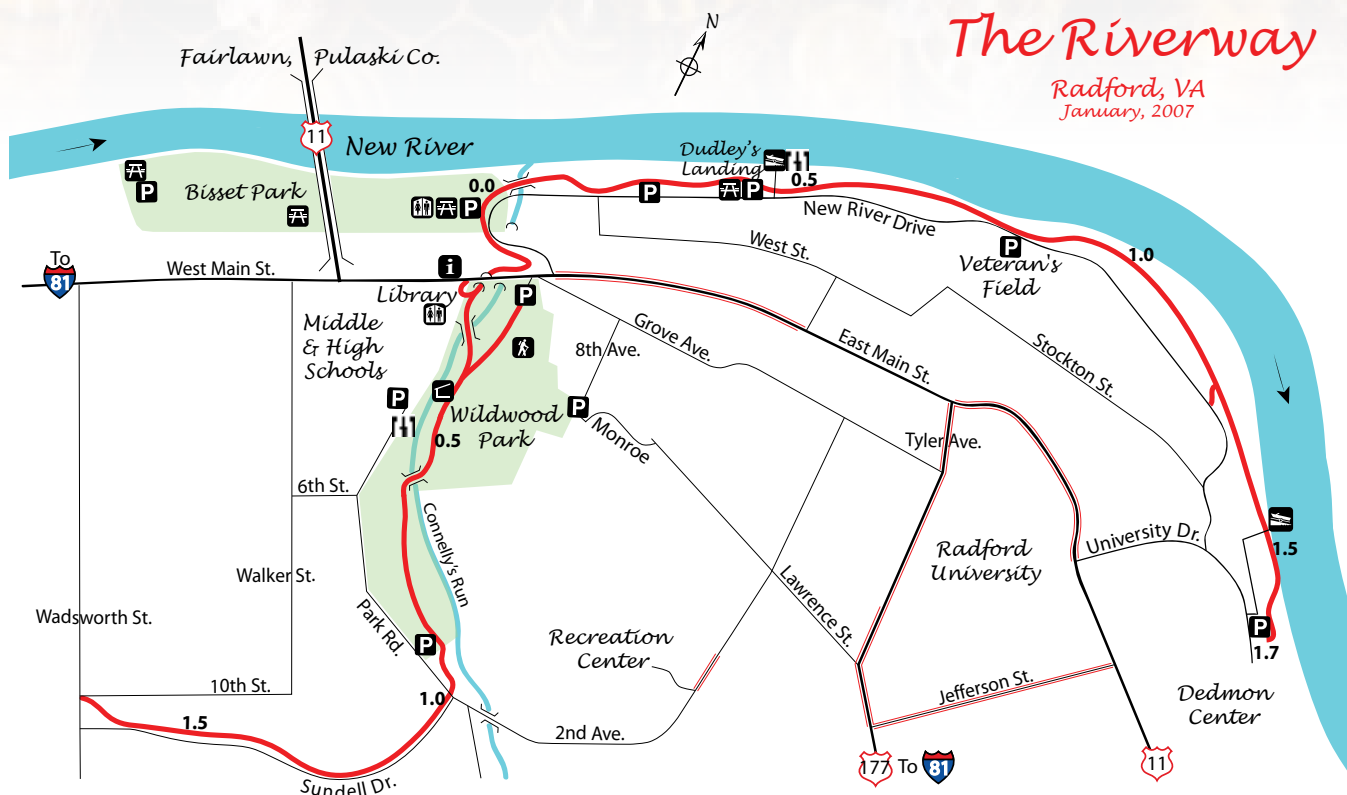


Mark your calendars for the upcoming **NRVBA Bee-fest** summer party in the park. This year we will be having it at Bissett park in Radford **August 11th** from 2-7 pm...the parks is right along the new river and has a nice pavilion with restrooms. All we supply is the food and fun and the famous beekeepers raffle! It'll be the bees-knees!

Bissett Park is a mecca for outdoor activities stretching right along the New River, Bissett Park offers over 100 acres of playgrounds, tennis courts, soccer and football fields, picnic shelters, a volleyball court, and paved trails reserved just for walkers and joggers. Wade fishing opportunities also abound with the park's access to the New River. Additionally, Tangent Outfitters (<http://www.newrivertrail.com/node/68>) operates a satellite store out of Bissett Park, where canoes, kayaks, and inner tubes can be rented and used on the river.

The Riverway Trail, a 3.5 mile paved bikeway/walkway, can also be accessed from Bissett Park, where it continues to the east along the New River and to the south through Wildwood Park. Both the Riverway Trail and the paths in Bissett Park are popular places to view birds, dragon and damselflies, and many other types of wildlife that live in and around the water.

A Civil War Trails marker is also located at the far end of the park, where the foundation of a bridge that was burned during the Battle of New River Bridge can still be viewed from the riverbank.



The Riverway
Radford, VA
January, 2007

- Bikeway/Walkway
- 0.5, 1.0, etc.** Miles from kiosk in Bissett Park
- Street with bike lanes
- Boat ramp
- Hiking trails
- Education shelter
- Observation platform
- Visitor Center, Chamber of Commerce

Information:
www.radfordpl.org/pathways

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