



Varroa destructor continues to plague beekeepers, but relief is available. See story starting on page 4.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Nicholas Calderone, Cornell University

Spring 2005 **Empire State Honey Producers Association** Issue No. 79

A Statewide Organization to Promote and Protect Interests of New York State Beekeepers

Edited by Aaron Morris, PO Box 246, Round Lake, New York 12151 email: amorris@uamail.albany.edu

Many Hands Make Light Work!

Editorial by Aaron Morris

Once again the newsletter is arriving later than I would like, for which I must apologize. Although it's still spring, we all know it's high bee season already. Deadlines, real or imagined, pass and when things get busy, bees' needs come first.

As I put the newsletter together I am always impressed with the work so many people do helping ESHPA *Promote and Protect Interests of New York State Beekeepers*. I can always rely on Nick and Joe as contributing authors. But I hesitate to start naming names for fear I will leave someone out.

It's easy to acknowledge the officers with a broad stroke of a pen, but in doing so I by no means intend to lessen their contributions. The officers I have known are nothing short of amazing!

Earl is always good at saying "Thank you!" to those who contribute so much to make the state fair a success; Jim and John and now Rob and all of the folks who volunteer a shift or two. And there are others who volunteer their skills as they

are able. So many deserve a collective "Thank You!" Della and Herm for their selfless contributions at honey shows, Ed and Judy for their contributions and representation at ABF, likewise Bob and Chuck and Karen at the AHPA, and Jim's work at the state legislature, not to mention Julie's ever present representation at the Farm Bureau.

And the list goes on. There's Mike and the entire EAS 2002 Team, ESHPA Members who serve as officers at local associations within the state, members who serve on the AIAC and members who work with the Apiary Inspection Program, and many others, who as a relatively new kid on the block I never met. And many who are no longer with us.

I used to wonder what it meant *to Promote and Protect Interests of New York State Beekeepers*. I think I've figured it out. We're a great group of people with a common interest, and a common willingness to work together to accomplish far more than we ever could individually. Perhaps that's a lesson we learn from our bees.

So at the summer picnic, thank our hosts, enjoy everyone's company, and share a collective pat on the back for the amazing job and accomplishments we all achieve!

The Spectator Paradigm time

By Joe Rowland

Spring has appeared here in a stack of fine sunny days. For me, this light at the end of the winter's tunnel was especially welcome. My winter losses will probably wind up around 12%. This was encouraging, as I'd heard some of our members lost 30-40% of their colonies.

A larger factor in my spring mood elevation was the recovery of my health, most of which had left me from December until March. A growth in the vicinity of my pituitary gland resulted in significant hormone depletion. My legs were swollen; I was tired, weak, numb in both arms, occasionally dizzy, and at my worst, seeing double! The final verdict from the doctor was that I needed to go to Boston where some crackerjack neurosurgeon would go up my nose, and then burrows through my sinus cavity to within a hairsbreadth of my brain in order to remove the troublesome tumor. Luckily for me, by the time I'd waded through all the various scans, tests, and appointments to get to this unappealing recommendation, I was feeling better! I said, "Doc,

you know I'd really like to get this thing out pronto, but I've got a lot of bees that won't wait 5 weeks for me to recover from the surgery. Since I'm feeling so good now, let's just put this baby on the back burner until say... November?" (read maybe never!). The doctor didn't like hearing that, but perhaps he hasn't had much experience with beekeepers.

While I was ill, I read a very interesting book about the dismal condition of the US healthcare system (Overdosed America, by John Abramson, MD). Anyone who is curious about why health insurance costs so much, or how our government regulators are in cahoots with the pharmaceutical industry should read this book. It literally could save your life! In his book, Abramson mentioned that the word 'paradigm' was first coined in 1962 by a fellow named Thomas Kuhn in order "to describe the unspoken professional values, beliefs, and techniques shared by a community of scientists or professionals". Abramson goes on to suggest that individual human behavior is guided by personal history, social relationships, and economic circumstances - in essence a personal paradigm. One part of my personal paradigm is a tendency to set goals. One of my beekeeping goals was to have a 200 lb colony production average. I've achieved that twice - once in 1996 (216 lb/colony) and again in 1998 (205 lb/colony). Another is to produce over 1 million pounds of honey. I've still got 60,000 lbs to go on that one. A more selfless goal of is to help poor farmers in developing countries to increase their income through beekeeping; I'm trying to accomplish this through voluntary consulting.

Goals can get you up in the morning and keep you moving productively through your life. It doesn't matter that much what the goal is, so long as you are motivated to work towards achieving it. My big goal at the moment is to stay healthy and get through his bee season.

I hope that your personal paradigm includes some worthy goals. I'd be lost without mine.

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Secretary Notes February 2005

So far this winter has been fairly good to us weather wise. Though February has seen some see-sawing in temperatures. Greg and I went to Tucson for the American Honey Producers Meeting and met many beekeepers from all over the country as well as some others from ESHPA. We were very impressed with the Carl Hayden Research Center and what the researchers are doing for the beekeeping industry. A lot of money from the almond growers has gone to research on varroa there. (To see the website on Carl Hayden researchers are doing go to: www.gears.tucson.ag.gov) The almond growers need bees and see that beekeepers are in need of help in the form of research on this pesky mite.

Mark your calendar now as the summer meeting will be at Chuck and Karen Kutik's on 285 Lyon Brook Road, Norwich, New York on July 23rd. They will have a talk on Queen rearing and a tour of their honey house. We will have the usual picnic with everyone bringing a dish to pass, place settings and their own chairs. Drinks will be provided.

Joanie Howland and I are working on the 2005 winter meeting. **Mark your calendars now!!** The Date is **December 3&4th 2005.**

We will be having it at the Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool at the end of 7th North Street.

We want to hear from members as to who they would like for speakers. We have several lined up and need more. Unfortunately several that we wanted can't make it because it is the time of their own local bee club winter meeting. We thought that by getting the place and date early we would have a better chance to get these people.

Della Ericksen needs some help with the honey show at the winter meeting. Please contact her if you are interested in helping her. Della's email address is hericksen@adelphia.net, and her phone number is (607)-334-7404.

I hope everyone has had a good wintering season and spring brings plenty of our little worker friends out to collect an abundance of nectar and pollen.

Debs Kalicin
Secretary/Treasurer

ESHPA Board Meeting, Saturday April 9th 2005

Members Present: Bill Crowell, JoanAnn and Dave Howland, Greg & Deb Kalicin, Judy Doan, and Lloyd Spear.

Meeting came to order at 11:20 AM. The minutes and treasurers report were read. Judy Doan made a motion to accept the minutes as read and was seconded by Greg Kalicin.

Bill Crowell asked the secretary to email Aaron about the "Where As statement" written after the November 24th meeting, did it get sent to where it was supposed to go. I did not have a list of people to send it to.

Rob Sorensen was there as new chairperson for the State Fair booth. He had some great ideas. Deb motioned that Rob buy what he needs to make improvements on the booth and submit the bills to for reimbursement. Joann Howland seconded the motion and it was passed.

Lloyd Spear made the motion to pay Rob \$500.00 to run the Fair Booth and Bill Crowell seconded the motion, and passed with a show of hands.

Greg Kalicin motioned that secretary be authorized to buy liability insurance to sell honey at the fair booth through the NY fair association. Joann Howland seconded and it was passed.

Deb Kalicin looked into the idea that the Fair people be bonded the insurance company recommended by the bank said that other insurance would be needed first and would be cost prohibiting.

The subjects of ESHPA Hats for volunteers working at the Fair booth were discussed. Judy Doan made a motion that each volunteer would receive a hat to wear while volunteering that would be his or hers to keep. This would also make us in compliance with the health Department that requires us to have head covered. Joann Howland seconded it and it was passed. Greg Kalicin will look into getting hats made with the ESHPA logo.

Bill's proposal of a joint meeting with OBA put on hold due to possibility of passport needed.

Deb discussed the winter meeting accommodations and Judy Doan motioned to set the Banquet tickets at \$30 per person. Lloyd Spear seconded it and it was passed.

Lloyd made the motion that we buy a $\frac{1}{4}$ page add in the FFA members Brochure Judy seconded it and it was passed.

Greg made the motion we get an ad in the NY State Organization Brochure, Bill seconded and it was passed.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM

Greetings from Dyce Lab.

Spring is a busy time, so I will keep it brief. There are several topics that you should be aware of as another season rapidly approaches. The good news is that formic acid is now available for control of parasitic mites. Other good news is that drone comb traps have been shown to be highly effective in suppressing Varroa populations during the summer. This means no more fall collapse. Any beekeeper with fewer than 100 hives can use this method. That's more than 95 % of all beekeepers. The bad news relates to an incident in the Midwest involving the illegal use of sodium cyanide by beekeepers. So, read on and be encouraged. The new formic acid product and the drone comb traps are major steps forward in IPM for parasitic mites and ones that I strongly urge you to take advantage of this year.

Formic acid is now available

Mite-Away II™ was approved for control of *Varroa destructor* and tracheal mites in honey bee colonies by US-EPA on March 31, 2005. States must also approve pesticides, and NYS-DEC acted rapidly, approving Mite-Away II™ on April 14, 2005, just days after receiving the application package from the manufacturer, NOD Apiaries. Thanks to Sam Jackling and Jeanine Broughel at DEC for their efforts in this matter. The Section 3 registration (General Use) is the same as that for Apistan; and, unlike the Section 18 Emergency Exemptions for CheckMite+ and Api-Life VAR, it does not require annual renewal.

The Mite-Away II™ pad contains 250 ml of 65% food grade formic acid soaked into a fiber board pad inside a perforated plastic pouch. Formic acid acts as an inhibitor of the mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase complex causing tissue suffocation and cell death (Keyhani & Keyhani, 1980, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 92:327-333). Independent studies using formic acid in formulations very similar to the Mite-Away II product have shown it to be highly effective in managing Varroa, especially as a fall treatment (Fig. 1). A single application is all that is required. There is no known resistance to formic acid at this time, making this new product especially attractive. However, there are special precautions that must be taken when using this product. These include significant respiratory protection:



Figure 1

Handler Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Applicators or handlers must wear standard beekeeping equipment: beekeeping gloves, bee veil with goggles (or safety glasses). Applicators and other handlers must wear coveralls over a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks and shoes, acid resistant gloves (PVC, neoprene, or nitrile), and protective eyewear. Wear a respirator with an organic-vapor removing cartridge with a prefilter approved for pesticides (MSHA/NIOSH approval number prefix TC-23C), or a canister approved for pesticides (MSHA/NIOSH approval number prefix TC-14G), or a NIOSH approved respirator with an organic vapor (OV) cartridge or canister with any N, R, P or HE prefilter. Clean or replace PPE at end of each day's work period. Rinse off pesticides at rest breaks. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning/maintaining PPE. If no such instructions for washables, use detergent and hot water. Keep and wash PPE separately from other laundry. - Mite-Away II™ label

Formic acid can cause severe burns, especially to your eyes, nasal passages and lungs. Please read the entire label that comes with the product and follow all of the instructions. You can find the complete label at masterbeekeeper.org.

Illegal use of Sodium Cyanide

Last fall, a number of beekeepers in the Midwest were found to have been illegally using sodium cyanide for control of wax moths. Cyanide is the substance formerly used in gas chambers to execute criminals convicted of capital crimes. The issue came to light when a trucker called the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office in North Dakota on or about September 30th, 2004 to report that two, 30-gallon kegs of sodium cyanide that he had been transporting for a beekeeper were missing from his truck. The kegs of cyanide were picked up by passing motorists and turned over to state authorities. Subsequent investigations revealed that a total of 18 kegs had been sold to a North Dakota beekeeper and several of those kegs had been re-distributed to beekeepers in other states. Numerous regulatory and law enforcement agencies, including Homeland Security, quickly became involved; however, it was soon determined that this was a case of an illegal use of a substance as a pesticide and not a terrorist threat. EPA, state regulatory agencies and various law enforcement agencies continued the investigation. The incident concluded on February 23, 2005 when North Dakota State Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson announced that eleven North Dakota businesses and individuals had been fined a total of \$189,500.00 for their alleged involvement in the illegal sale, transport and use of sodium cyanide. Clearly, this was a potentially catastrophic situation that generated exactly the type of publicity that the bee industry can do without. There are no legal uses for sodium cyanide related to beekeeping in the US. I have attached a statement from the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators summarizing some of these issues. These types of fines could also be applied to off-label uses of other pesticides used for control of parasitic mites.

ILLEGAL USE OF SODIUM CYANIDE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state departments of agriculture have recently been alerted that some beekeepers have been using **sodium cyanide compound** to control pests in their honey bee colonies/hives. Specifically, apiarists have been purchasing and using a **sodium cyanide compound** as a fumigant in beehives to destroy or mitigate wax moths¹ including the caterpillar and larvae, as well as to cull out weaker hives. These practices are illegal and have the potential for serious harm to human health and the environment.

All pesticides distributed in the United States must be registered by the EPA. The Federal pesticide law [the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)] defines "pesticide" to include any substance intended for controlling, mitigating or destroying pests. A substance is a pesticide and requires registration as such if the person distributing the substance (1) makes claims, either expressed or implied, that the substance can be used as a pesticide or (2) distributes the substance with the knowledge that the substance will be used to control pests. **Any individual selling or distributing sodium cyanide compound for mitigating any pest, including the wax moth, caterpillar and larvae, or any other pest for use in bee hives or colonies is selling and distributing an unregistered pesticide and subject to penalties of up to \$6,500 per violation under FIFRA.**

Currently, there are no sodium cyanide or similar cyanide compound products registered by the EPA for pest control in honey bee colonies/hives. Also, there are no established residue tolerances for any cyanide compound in honey or beeswax. Honey analyzed and found to contain any cyanide compound residue would be considered adulterated under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, and could be seized. The seizure of honey due to adulteration with a highly toxic chemical would be detrimental to the entire apiary industry.

Further, use of **sodium cyanide** in an apiary setting can be extremely dangerous. The compound is highly toxic to humans and other warm-blooded animals, and it is a Toxicity Category I compound - EPA's highest toxicity level for pesticides. This rating indicates the greatest degree of acute toxicity for oral, dermal, and inhalation effects. It is highly corrosive to the skin and eyes. Cyanide can be absorbed through the skin and its vapor is absorbed extremely rapidly via the respiratory tract.

Beekeepers who are currently in possession of the highly toxic, unregistered sodium cyanide compound or related products should contact their state agricultural agency for instructions on proper storage and disposal of the product. The state agricultural agency can also provide information on registered pesticides, such as paradichlorobenzene and aluminum phosphide products, that are legal to use to mitigate pests in honey bee colonies/hives.

¹Wax moth includes both the Greater Wax Moth, *Galleria mellonella*, and the Lesser Wax Moth, *Achroia grissella*, both of which are sometimes referred to the wax wing moth.

Drone Comb Traps for Managing Varroa

Female Varroa mites (Fig. 2) invading drone cells produce about twice as many offspring as those invading worker cells. Not surprisingly, mites are found 8 - 15 times as often on drone brood as on worker brood. You can exploit this difference as part of an IPM program for control of *V. destructor*. By removing drone brood from your colonies, you remove a disproportionately large number of mites without affecting the size of the worker population. The drone brood removal method has been found to reduce mite levels up to 10-fold and to maintain strong populations during the summer and early fall. This is the time when many colonies succumb to mites, a phenomenon known as 'fall collapse'. Try this method and you will prevent fall collapse and be treating healthy bees in the fall.

You will need four drone combs per colony to use this method. Drone foundation can be purchased from several supply houses. The foundation is wired into frames and drawn out by colonies. One piece plastic drone combs are also available. Use two deep hive bodies for brood chambers, and separate them from the honey supers with a queen excluder. Cull worker combs in the brood nest with more than 1-2 square inches of drone cells (Fig. 3). Remember! The goal is to get the colony to consolidate all of its drone production in the removable drone combs.

Place two drone combs in the upper brood chamber, one or two combs in from each side. Visit your colony every 26-28 days, remove the drone combs (Fig. 4), and replace them with the drone combs that you removed on the previous replacement date. Place the combs of capped drone brood in a freezer, and keep them there until you are ready for your next exchange. Allow drone combs to come to ambient temperature before placing them back in a colony. Be sure to visit your bees at least every 28 days to exchange combs because you don't want too



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

many drones actually emerging in your hive. If a drone comb becomes filled with honey, you will need to substitute an empty drone comb and extract the honey before reusing it. In the north, you can exchange combs up to six times a season using a 26-28 day interval between exchanges. The more often you exchange combs, the more you will suppress the mite population. At Dyce Lab we exchange drone combs from apple blossom until we remove the fall crop just before the end of the goldenrod flow. The drone brood removal method has no known deleterious effects on colonies, and honey production may be marginally increased.

[Note! Yes, it only takes 24 days to rear a drone, but it takes the bees a couple of days to clean out the combs, and it takes the queen a couple of days to fill them up. So, the 26-28 day interval works. However, if you are ambitious and want to exchange combs more frequently, go right ahead.].

Why should I reduce the use of chemicals in the hive?

- Ensure purity of hive products and health of consumers
- Maintain honey's reputation as a pure and natural product
- Open new markets
- Limit negative impacts on environment
- Limit exposure of applicator to pesticides
- Reduce liability
- Reduce cost of production
- Slow the rate at which pest populations develop pesticide resistance

Minimizing chemical residues in Honey and Wax

Since beekeepers have been using pesticides, the demand for US beeswax has dropped. Companies fear that pesticide residues in the wax will compromise the products they make. Honey from other countries has been denied entry into the US because of chemical contamination. In the US, honey with levels of pesticides or antibiotics that exceed established tolerances is subject to seizure and destruction. Legal action against the offending beekeeper is always a possibility.

There are steps you can take to minimize chemical residues in both honey and wax and to improve the overall quality of the honey you produce. First, use dedicated hive bodies and combs for brood chambers and honey supers. This is best done by using a queen excluder to prevent the colony from rearing brood in your honey supers. You make this a bit easier if you identify your brood chambers and honey supers. You can paint your brood chambers and honey supers different

colors. This will make it easy to remember which is which. Alternatively, you can use deeps for your brood chambers and mediums for your honey supers. This makes it impossible to exchange brood combs for honey combs. Second, apply pesticides only in your brood chambers. This will ensure that residues in your honey and your cappings are minimized. Never exchange combs between brood chambers and honey supers. This will result in a slightly lighter honey and defeat the purpose of segregating the hive into functional areas. Third, cull brood chamber combs on a regular basis, at least every 5 years, and more often if they develop large patches of drone cells. Follow these recommendations and you will reduce pesticide residues in honey and cappings wax, decrease the incidence of brood diseases, and increase the effectiveness of the drone trap method.

Nicholas Calderone
Dyce Laboratory
Cornell University

State Fair Recap and Preview

Honey product sales were down at the Fair last year compared to the 2003 Fair. The gross last year was \$7831 whereas gross sales for 2003 was \$8432. However, the ratio of net profit verses gross sales was better last year compared to 2003. The net was \$2270 compared to \$3000 for 2003. This was due in part to an increase in the retail price.

One reason sales were down was due to the bad weather last year, which affected honey production. One producer who has supplied us with comb honey in previous years was unable to supply any last year. Another producer who supplied liquid honey also was unable to supply any honey.

As you may have heard, we experienced a major honeybee lost this winter and am hoping this will not limit the amount of honey available for the upcoming State Fair.

Candles were sold last year and sold out early. We will try to have more candles available for sale this year. Skin cream was not available again and do not know if any will be available this year.

The volunteers once again did a terrific job working the booth handing out samples, selling honey, answering questions and working in the gazebo. We had more volunteers last year than previous years, which provided better coverage, which was good. We also had more coverage working the last week of the fair. I hope this continues again this year. I want to thank all the volunteers on behalf of the association for volunteering their valuable time. Some of you have been doing this since we started selling honey at the fair, which has been 5 years. Many of you have also worked more than 1 day each of those years.

We would like to have a minimum of 3 volunteers per shift as this makes it easier on everyone. There will be two shifts each day; 10:00am - 4:00pm and 4:00pm - 10:00pm. The fair dates this year are Aug 25 to Sep 5. Each volunteer will receive a free parking pass and a free admission pass. We will begin signing up

volunteers at our summer picnic July 23rd.

Guidelines for products to be sold at the State Fair are:

1. Product must be supplied by a current ESHPA member.
2. Suppliers of product must have \$1 million product liability.
3. Honey must be NYS produced.
4. Liquid honey and creamed honey must be packed in plastic containers.
5. All products must have suppliers own label.

Products sold will be liquid honey, creamed honey, comb honey, beeswax candles, lip cream, and skin cream.

Container sizes for liquid honey will be 8oz, 12oz, 16oz, 24oz, and 32oz.

The container size for creamed honey is 16oz. We have been allowed to charge more for honey this year, therefore, the increase in container sizes from 16oz last year to 32oz this year.

People were also looking for more varietal honey last year. For example; bamboo, wildflower, goldenrod, etc. Hopefully we will be able to supply more of these products.

All products will be sold on consignment. Anyone interested must notify one of the following: Robert Sorensen (315) 585-6670, Joe Rowland (607) 687-2679, Richard Wakefield (315) 493-0347, or Earl Vilecco (607) 693-1571.

This year Robert Sorensen will be in charge of the fair booth. Rob is looking forward to working with the volunteers. Lets wish him well in his first year and provide him with any assistance he may need.

Those who are interested in supplying honey for the honey show, there is a \$5 entry fee, which allows you to enter as many classes as you would like to enter. There are 9 classes. Ribbons are given to the top 4 prizes in each class. The prize money given is: \$20 - 1st, \$13 - 2nd, and \$7 - 3rd. The entry forms and the \$5 entry fee must be received no later than (Monday) July 25 at the NYS fairgrounds Entry Department. Anyone entering the competition receives 2 parking

Continued, top of next page

and 2 entry passes.

For a premium/rule book and entry form, contact:

New York State Fairgrounds Entry Department
581 State Fair Blvd.
Syracuse, New York 13209
Phone # (315) 487-7711 ext 1337
(Mary Ellen Daino) - Entry Coordinator)

Contact Jim Schuyler (315) 656-9484, email:
jschuyle@twcnr.com if you have questions regarding

your entry. Contact one of the committee members if you have any questions or concerns regarding the State Fair.

Finally, thank you once again Jim for your outstanding dedication overseeing the staffing, ordering supplies, and handling the money over the past 5 years. It's been a pleasure working with you.

Earl Villecco
State Fair Committee rep.



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Dear fellow beekeeper:

It is New York State Fair time again! We have a great looking beekeeping display booth with honey and honey bees, but need your help to run the booth at the State Fair. The Fair runs from August 26, 2005 through September 5, 2005, 10 AM to 10 PM. We will send you two admission tickets and a parking pass for a half-day of volunteering your time. If we get enough assistance, we could cut it to four hours. The rest of the day you can tour around the Fair.

For those who have never helped before, it consists of monitoring our observation hive, handing out free honey samples and literature, answering questions about beekeeping and doing a live demonstration in the screened-in gazebo, if you're comfortable doing it. We will also be selling honey and candles.

Please contact one of the people above by phone or email, with the date(s) you can help, or with any questions you have. We will mail out your tickets the next day.

When you pay your assessment to the National Honey Board, you are entitled to 500 copies of the honey recipes each year. If you are eligible, and do not use them, please call the National Honey Board at 1-800-553-7162 (toll free) to order them for our use at this year's New York State Fair.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours truly,
Robert Sorensen
2005 New York State Fair Coordinator

EAS 2005
Kent State University, Ohio
August 1-5



The Eastern Apicultural Society of North America was established in 1955 with the purpose of promoting honey bee culture, the education of beekeepers, and excellence in bee research. Every summer, EAS conducts its annual conference in one of its 22 member States/Provinces. About 500 people, from around the world, attend this conference every year.

You must be a member of EAS in order to participate in the Short Course, Conference, or other activities. Dues may be paid with your conference or short course registration. Additional information is available on this EAS web site at: <http://www.easternapiculture.org>

American Honey Producers Association
Tucson, Arizona



Submitted by Chuck Kutik

The Tucson meeting was very well attended. The big news, of course, was almond pollination with reports of some rental prices up to and exceeding \$100 per colony, especially for those growers who were short of bees. Pollination prices for almonds should stay high because almond acreage is being added at the rate of 40,000 acres per year up to the year 2012 as reported by the Almond board.

Other topics included new mite treatments being explored. 2-hepatone shows promise along with discussion on oxalic acid and thymol based products. A liquid bee feed supplement is getting much closer to reality, possibly some time this year.

The news of major bee losses in western outfits was another topic of concern.

One highlight of the meeting was a trip to the CARL HAYDEN USDA Bee Lab followed by a visit to Old Tucson. Guests were treated to a private Wild West show and a buffet dinner in the old saloon.

There were also many other places of interest in and around Tucson to enjoy on one's free time, Tombstone and the Desert Sonora Museum to mention a couple. Also who could complain about being Arizona in January?



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**Don't forget to
 check out
 ESHPA's web
 page at:**

<http://www.eshpa.org>

On July 23rd all roads lead to Norwich!



From Utica, pick up NY-12 south (runs concurrently with NY-5 W and NY-8 S). Keep on NY-12 south for approximately 49 miles. Watch for and turn left onto Hale Street, which quickly becomes County Route 32A (less than half a mile) and quickly (less than a mile) turn right onto County Route 32. Stay STRAIGHT to go onto DAN MAIN HILL RD/DAN MAN HL, which after 2 miles becomes Lyon Brook Road.



From Syracuse, take I-81 south for about 53 miles. Get off at Exit 8 and turn left onto US-11/NY-79. In about a mile Turn LEFT onto NY-26/NY-79/E MAIN ST. Continue to follow E MAIN ST, which becomes NY-206. In just over 10 miles turn left onto NY-12 and continue for 17 miles. Turn right onto CR-32B and almost immediately (just over ½ mile) turn right onto CR-32. Just over a mile turn left onto Lyon Brook Rd. Follow Lyon Brook Road for about 2 ½ miles.



From I-88 West take NY Rt 8 (Exit 9) towards Sydney. In about 3 ½ miles turn right on County Rt 36. Continue for 5 ½ miles and turn left onto Pratt Rd. Just over a mile turn left onto Lyon Brook Road



From Binghamton, pick up I-81 north to exit 6 onto US Rt. 11 towards Norwich. Stay straight on Rt-11 towards Rt-12 for just over 31 miles. Turn right onto County Rt 32-B, and almost immediately onto County Route 32. In less than a mile turn left onto Lyon Brook Road. Follow Lyon Brook Road for about 2 ½ miles.

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Summer Picnic!



This year's annual ESHPA summer picnic is being graciously hosted by Chuck and Karen Kutik at their home on 285 Lyon Road, in Norwich, NY. Approximate driving directions herein are taken from <http://www.mapquest.com>. Readers are encouraged to surf to Mapquest to get more detailed directions or see a close up map at http://www.eshpa.org/summerevent_05.htm.

The festivities begin at 10AM. Following a (hopefully) short business meeting, speakers and presentations will include Allison Skinner, Tech-Transfer Specialist for the *Ontario Beekeepers' Association* presenting on assessing hygienic traits of honey bee colonies, Bob Brachmann of *Cold Country Queens* on queen rearing, and our hosts will showcase their operation, *Kutik's Honey Farm*. There will be field demonstrations, so bring a veil or get stung!



Lunch will feature Brook's Barbeque chicken.

Members should bring a covered side dish to share. Remember also to bring your own place settings, beverage of choice and lawn chairs.



Prior to the picnic there will be a meeting of the ESHPA Board of Directors, commencing at **9:00AM**.



EMPIRE STATE Honey Producers Association

Protecting the Interests of New York Beekeepers since 1867

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