

COMB Courier

“I speak for those who cannot speak for themselves”

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Editor: mike ffrench

Go, and sting no more

Honey harvest ‘clean-up’ of emptied supers produces a sting-free zone. The clouds of honey bees, wasps, hornets, bumble bees and assorted flying insects greedily supping on the empty combs, do not bother humans at this time of year.

Overheard in the swarm cloud:

Nurse bee to guard bee. “Shouldn’t you be stinging that human,” she says, looking my way.

“It’s not my job,” said the guard bee, landing on a juicy piece of comb saturated with honey.

“Yes, it is,” said the nurse bee petulantly.

“No it isn’t,” said the guard bee defensively, “my primary job is defense of the hive. So there!”

There is a distinct relationship between getting stung and the proximity of the hive. This dictum seems to also apply to wasps and hornets.

Pas de Deux

Observation is everything. When bees find a rich source of honey or pollen or feel the need to find a new house, the scout bees return to the hive and do a little dance, which passes on this information. My question is: Is the dance reminiscent of an Irish jig or a Polish polka? Or, are there variations of this *pas de deux* that indicate the precise nature of the discovery? There are no prizes for the answer, but it would add to our knowledge about these industrious creatures we call bees.

Ed: *Pas de deux* is a movement in ballet, perhaps one of our lady beekeepers could enlighten us about the arcane world of ballet-speak. I looked up *pas de deux* in my French/English dictionary and came up with *not of two*. What the blimey O’Riley is that?

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My designated hair

Here is a recipe to thicken and condition your hair from Donna Dozitt. Mix 1-part Mayonnaise with 1-part honey. Mix well until both ingredients are thoroughly fused together. Apply liberally to hair; let it set for 5 minutes, then rinse. Best time to do this would be *after* you have serviced your hives—*not before*!

Ouch, that hurts

During the second week in September, I was in the woodland surrounding my house cutting down some saplings for roosts for my new chicken house, or coop if you want to get specific, when out of the blue three armed flying insects attacked me. After getting a particularly vicious

sting from a wasp or hornet (I didn't hang around long enough to establish its species genus) I have come to the conclusion that there is a distinct relationship between getting stung and the proximity of the hive, or in the case of wasps and hornets, their nests.

I am also inclined to believe the dictum that their sting is more potent at different times of the year. The one sting on my hand was like being hit with a nail gun. The pain and itching lasted for several days.

Before their time

Before their time: a look at ways to increase candle sales. Light is measured in lumens, what we need is a candle that can rival Edison's incandescent light bulb. I know we can expand the lumens of a candle by means of enhanced reflection, vis-a-vis a candle with a glass cover to avoid fires and a reflective background to increase illumination. With the return to natural world that hopefully will keep oil and gas where it belongs—underground—the emergence of natural products will see resurgence in demand. Beekeepers are in the vanguard when it comes to the natural world. Therefore we should be concentrating on innovative products that have potential in the market place. Eternal flame candles for loved ones who have passed away is another idea that needs exploration, there are many more. The fact that beeswax burns well and is relatively smokeless, speaks well of its potential. Beekeepers work hard at their craft and should be suitably rewarded. Beekeepers are of more value to society than someone glued to a computer working out how to beat the stock market.

For the unenlightened, watts are energy units, lumens are light emitting units.

C.O.M.B. Monthly meeting.
2nd Monday of the month 6:30pm.
MSU Pavilion, Farm Lane, E. Lansing

Head Drone

I heard a voice beseech me
'Do not stick your head in here'
'Twas the head drone speaking
Tone laced with angst and fear.

Bee item wanted

I am looking for a small child's bee suit:
2-5 years of age.
Reply to Scott Nichols:
thenicholsgroup@yahoo.com



Bee Classifieds

If you have any bee-related items you would like to buy, sell, or trade, this section is for you. This service is free for members of C.O.M.B. You may submit ads to Mike French or Deb Foote. There will be a nominal fee for associate members.

Deadline for next issue is October 28th