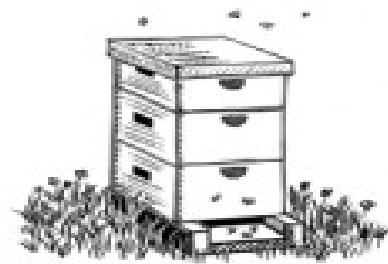


The Middlesex Bee

Middlesex County Beekeepers Association

Rick Reault, President

www.middlesexbeekeepers.org



January 2010 Volume 21, Number 1

Upcoming meetings and events

- **January MCBA meeting – Friday, January 22** from 7 to 9 pm at the First Religious Society church in Carlisle Center. Noah Wilson-Rich from Tufts University will speak about how honey bees resist diseases at multiple levels of biological organization, from genes to behavior.
- **February MCBA meeting – Friday, February 26** from 7 to 9 pm at the First Religious Society church in Carlisle Center. Phil Starks from Tufts University will speak about the benefits of using the honey bee as a model for disease transmission in natural populations.



**Yes, it's time
to renew!**

It's that time of the year again! Your dues for 2010 are due by the end of January. Just think, for the low price of only \$10 per year, you can continue to receive all the advice you could possibly ask for at our meetings or on our members-only website, continue to receive the *Middlesex Bee* every month, and more! You can pay your dues at the next meeting or send your check, payable to "MCBA", to Jennifer Reed, 81 Westford St., Dunstable, MA 01827.

Thank you!

Thanks to John Cheetham and Patrick Canavan for managing the kitchen at the party and Birgit DeWeerd for coordinating everything. We couldn't have had a good time without your efforts!



Welcome!

MCBA Members for December 2009

by Jennifer Reed, Corresponding Secretary

All new MCBA members get email invitations to our members-only club web site. This is a great resource! If you need access send me an email and we'll get you set up.

jsreed81@gmail.com

Bill Bramlett of Pepperell
Mike and Joan Mintz of Harvard
Bodo Stern of Cambridge
John and Lisa Weisner of Groton

Update your email address!

If you're not receiving the newsletter, it might be because your email address has changed and we don't know about it. Send any email address updates to Corresponding Secretary Jennifer Reed at jsreed81@gmail.com.

To update your e-mail address on the MCBA members-only website, go to <http://www.communityzero.com/mcba>. First login, then click on "My Communities" in the left column. Next, click on the "Edit My Profile" icon near the top of the page. You may edit your information on the new page that appears. Scroll down toward the bottom of this page to change your e-mail address. Just retype it in the box that appears. When you're finished, click on "Update Profile."

Note: There was no meeting in December, so there is no Bee Talk, meeting minutes, or treasurer's report this month.



Directions to the winter meetings

The winter meetings are held at the First Religious Society (Unitarian) Church on 27 School St. at the town common in Carlisle center.

From route 3, get off at the route 129 exit in Chelmsford. Go west on route 129 then turn left onto Mill Rd. Turn left onto Concord Rd. at Mill Rd. and route 4. Follow Concord Rd., which becomes Lowell St., into Carlisle center.

From route 128/95, take route 3 north and continue as in the previous paragraph.

From route 2, take the exit for route 27 north through Acton. Turn right onto route 225 east into Carlisle center.

Whose swarm is it?

Your editor recently discovered a Facebook group named "Art. 924. cod. civ." that refers to Article 924 of the civil code in Italy. Here is the translation of that statute:

"The owner of a swarm of bees can pursue the swarm for two days on someone else's property provided he compensates the property owner for any damage caused in capturing the swarm. If the owner of the swarm doesn't pursue it for two days or stops pursuing it within two days, the property owner has rights to the swarm."



Honey shuts down an airport

LOS ANGELES, Jan 5 (Reuters) - Authorities shut down a California airport on Tuesday after a suspicious amber liquid in a passenger's bag tested positive for explosives -- only to ultimately determine that the substance was honey.

Francisco Ramirez, a 31-year-old gardener, who had been visiting family in the central California city of Bakersfield, was allowed to return home to Milwaukee.

"The substances in the bottles did turn out to be honey. They tested negative for all explosives and narcotics. It is nothing but honey," FBI spokesman Steve Dupre told Reuters.

The security scare came as jitters gripped the U.S. travel industry in the aftermath of an unsuccessful Christmas Day attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound commercial flight from Amsterdam using explosives smuggled on board.

Meadows Field Airport in Bakersfield, about 100 miles (160 km) north of Los Angeles, was shut down and evacuated for hours and flights diverted after the incident, which began when Ramirez' bag set off an alarm in a luggage-screening machine.

U.S. Transportation and Security administration screeners turned up five Gatorade bottles full of what they called a "suspicious-looking liquid." Swabs of the bag and bottles tested positive for the explosives TNT and TATP.

When the bottles were opened, two of the screeners smelled a strong chemical odor, complained of nausea, and were rushed to a local hospital, where they were treated and released, Kern County Sheriff's spokesman Michael Whorf said.

Kern County Sheriffs deputies, fire crews, FBI agents and members of a "joint terrorism task force" responded to the scene and spent the day questioning Ramirez before further tests showed that the liquid was honey.

After the all clear was given, officials said they were trying to determine why the honey tested positive for explosives and made the screeners so ill that they would need medical attention.

"There are some questions I think are going to have to be followed up on," Dupre said. He said that Ramirez was "free to go" and would likely be home in Milwaukee by Wednesday.

Ramirez, who Whorf described as "very cooperative," had originally been booked on a flight from Bakersfield to Milwaukee with a connection through San Francisco.

Pesticide Sale is Banned

The sale of the Bayer CropScience pesticide spirotetramat, marketed as Movento and Ultor, has been banned for sale in the US. The December 23, 2009 ruling by US District Court Judge Denise Cote doesn't specifically mention potential effects on honeybees, but instead cites EPA violations of procedural errors required before approving the product.

The case was brought against the EPA by environmental groups the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Xerces Society. The groups cited information from the EPA that says that spirotetramat causes significant mortality and massive perturbation to honeybee brood through trace residues of the pesticide brought into hives by bees.

Bayer spokesman Jack Boyne said that the court's decision is not about the pesticide itself and that spirotetramat has "excellent performance with regard to bee safety."

Bayer CropScience intervened in the case saying that it stood to lose tens of millions of dollars in sales if the spirotetramat-containing products were taken off the market. The court would not consider that argument.

The ban on the pesticide, which was approved in 2008, takes effect on January 15. The company has not said if it will appeal the ruling.

The Middlesex Bee
Middlesex County Beekeepers
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MCBA members-only website
www.communityzero.com/mcba
Public website
www.middlesexbeekeepers.org

Your comments and submissions are
always welcome. All material is due by
the 15th of each month. Plain text,
Open Document, or Microsoft Word
formats are acceptable. HTML is not
acceptable.

Send membership applications and
dues to Jennifer Reed, 81 Westford St.,
Dunstable, MA 01827

Scott Sminkey, Newsletter Editor