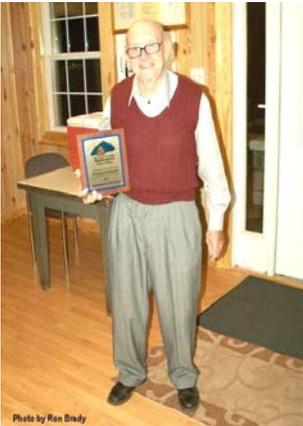


## GARLAND GILLILAND 1928-2009



Garland receives  
beekeeper of the year  
award

Back in 1978 I was lucky to meet a very kind and gentle soul at a beekeepers' meeting in Clinton, AR. Shortly thereafter I went to visit this gentleman at his workplace in a hardware store in Conway where he had a couple of hives and sold bee supplies.

Garland Gilliland moved to Damascus, Arkansas from Alabama

where he was born in 1928. It was Alabama's loss and a big gain for Arkansas and especially for the beekeepers of Arkansas. When Garland retired from the hardware store he grew his honey business along with the business of supplying beekeepers with about anything they needed. He helped to start the Ozark Foothills Beekeeping Association and sponsored numerous beekeeping classes. He mentored uncounted beekeepers of all ages and never expected a thing in exchange.

At one point Garland and his wife Rose opened and ran The Honey House in Damascus but after a few years found that minding the store got in the way of taking care of bees and other responsibilities. When they closed The Honey House they set up an honesty based honey and jam stand on Hwy 65. "Take the honey and leave the money".

On January 3 of this year Garland passed away and will always be sorely missed. I was lucky to know this man for over 30 years and thank his family for sharing him with us.

## NOSEMA CERANAE STUDY IN ARKANSAS

Justin Whitaker is a new MS student working with Dr. Allen Szalanski at the University of Arkansas on the occurrence and population genetics of *Nosema ceranae* in Arkansas. This honey bee pathogen may be a factor in CCD and Justin's research will provide information on how widespread it is and may provide information on the possible source of *N. ceranae* to the United States. He is starting to sample bees from beekeepers from across the state, and if you want to have some of your bees looked at you can contact him at [jtwhitak@uark.edu](mailto:jtwhitak@uark.edu).

## FUMAGILIN-B

*Nosema* causes more small honey crops than any other bee disease. It is prevalent in over wintered colonies in spring and in package bees. Fumagilin-B is the only registered antibiotic effective in the control of *Nosema*. You can feed it in the Fall and again in the Spring. However, I don't recommend using unneeded chemicals in your hive. So if you believe you have a problem with *Nosema* I fully recommend an inspection and having a lab sample identify the problem before resorting to treatment.

## SWARM LIST

Swarm season is approaching. So it is time to update our list. Last year there was a problem with us giving out-of-date information. So this year we are going to completely update the list. If you would like to be added to the swarm list, you will need to contact the office. We will compile a new list annually. This will help those interested in catching swarms, as well

as the public. Also, the swarm list will be added to our website and updated as needed. Please call our office @ 501-225-1598 or you can email [Dana.Jones@aspb.ar.gov](mailto:Dana.Jones@aspb.ar.gov) .

Please remember that it is a violation of Pest Control Law to remove bees from a structure for a fee without a license. If you are interested in obtaining a license please contact Scott Derrick in our Pest Control Section.

## **PLANT BOARD APIARY WEBSITE**

We have updated our website. The new page should be easier for beekeepers' and the public to find information. As mentioned before, the swarm list has been added. Also, with the help of local associations, we were able to compile an updated list of most of the local associations and add their membership forms. This information will be helpful to the public and the associations alike. By giving the public easier access to membership, we believe it will help the associations' membership grow.

We encourage every association to review the information on the list, and let us know of any changes that need to be made or want your membership form added. On the page, you will also find the Apiary office staff and Jon Zawislak's contact information and email links. We also have added the Naturally Arkansas website link to our other helpful links section. To see the website, go to [http://www.plantboard.org/plant\\_apiary.html](http://www.plantboard.org/plant_apiary.html) .

## **BEE SEEN**

The more opportunities customers have to find your business, the more chances you have to make a sale. This is especially true if you are advertising on the internet where a search for honey or bee's wax will yield millions of results. Even a search for "Arkansas honey" will get over two million. Fortunately the Arkansas Beekeepers Association ([www.arbeekeepers.org](http://www.arbeekeepers.org)) is at the top of the list, but there are many ways other than a direct search by which a potential buyer may find you.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department maintains ([www.naturallyarkansas.org](http://www.naturallyarkansas.org)) for any agriculture product produced in the state. This site is free and allows you plenty of space to describe your business and to list contact information. You can also

link to your own website or to the association site. Customers come to the Ag Department site for a lot of different reasons and may not even know they want to buy honey from you until they see your listing.

To place a listing, go to the site and look for the statement "Click here to join" written just below the picture of the girl sitting under the apple tree. When you click that link, a form will appear for you to enter your information. None of the fields are required and you can list as much or as little information as you like. If you do not have access to the internet, contact our office for assistance.



You may also notice the "Arkansas Grown" logo posted on front page of the site. This promotional brand is part of a campaign to build awareness of Arkansas agricultural products and is available for you to place on your product or in your own promotions. Clicking on the logo will take you to more specific information or give us a call.

## **QUEEN BREEDER LIST**

The Apiary Section sent out questionnaires to queen breeders across the US and Canada in order for our beekeepers to have a "Suggested Queen Breeders List". However, due to lack of support/ interest from the queen breeders we only received the three responses listed below:

- |                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1) Gardner's Apiaries            | (912) 367-9352 |
| 2) Purvis Brothers Apiaries Inc. | (931) 852-3033 |
| 3) Honey Run Apiaries            | (419) 371-1742 |

## **TRAVEL REMINDER**

Spring is approaching and the bees will soon be buzzing. In fact some beekeepers bees are already buzzing in California. I am sure most of you are preparing your bees/operation for spring. Some of you have orders in for packages or nucs, and some of you are preparing to buy bees locally.

Whether you are buying or selling bees you will need an inspection. If you are purchasing packages or nucs make sure they are accompanied with a health certificate. There are enough problems you have to worry about, without buying someone else's problems.

## MEETING NEWS

Earlier this month a couple of us had the opportunity to attend and participate in meetings of the Apiary Inspectors of America and the American Association of Professional Apiculturists. These are always productive meetings and especially when we are able to spend time visiting with the top bee scientists of N. America along with researchers from other countries. This months meetings were no exception. Besides our business meetings where we pursued topics of great importance to the bee industry, we had two full days of lectures and presentations that included the American Bee Research Conference.

Of course Colony Collapse Disorder, Varroa mites, Chemicals in the Environment and in the Hives were much discussed as were advances in genetics and bee nutrition. These were all hot topics.

It seems that there are always new ways to treat bees and various best practices du jour. But there are also scientific discussions that disprove best practices from previous years. This year's big topics that seemed to put the damper on earlier "best practices" had to do with learning more and more of how the chemical controls used in beekeeping are often doing more harm than good.

Not all but many scientists are saying to avoid the very chemicals or treatments that, at one time, they promoted but that seems to be the trend. An old example of that is the use of Terramycin in the extender patties. Once thought good, this has been put out to pasture by scientist for several years.

This year, one of the most blatant of these retractions involved the practice of alternating between the "hard" pesticides that are designed for managing varroa mites. While it was previously thought wise in order to avoid or minimize resistant mites, it was demonstrated this year that previous year's recommendations of alternating is harmful to the bees. We've known that the hard chemicals are designed to kill a bug on a bug and that's got to be tricky. To do this without killing the host bug (the bee) there is no way around them having some sub-lethal effects on the bee itself. It seems that this is done with the defenses of the bees using a molecule to block the chemical from killing it. But now we are learning that when the beekeeper alternates between "hard varroacides", the defense is "used-up" and

cannot defend it against the next treatment. Hence, what was the sub-lethal treatment becomes lethal.

This work and many others will be published shortly in one of the major journals.



*Have a honey  
of a New Year!*