



This is a wonderful summer for Honeybees!

There has been just enough rain to keep the nectar flowing in the flowers, and yet not such hard rains to keep the girls inside or washed from the facades on a hot summer day. The strain of Winter seems a distant memory, with the extremes of warm then brutally cold, and the chilling news coverage of Colony Collapse Disorder, however we accept our bounty with grace.

Celebrating New Adventures

There is great joy in sharing our love of honeybees. Each winter, as our main beekeeping classes unfold in preparation for spring, we see the light go on in peoples' hearts and minds, When spring finally arrives, after the tinkering pleasures of hive building and the anticipation of a newborn, the nucs are ready for pick up.



NUC PICK UP DAY IN MAY

From May thru June, approximately 143 nucs with almost 2 million honeybees passed thru our hands to eager students and clients!

See other pages for details:

- HoneybeeLives in the news
- Fall / Winter Prep Classes - Aug 23 or Sept 16
- Beekeeper's Potluck Dinner - August 23, 6:30pm
- Big Bear News
- Ulster County Beekeepers' Association on its way!
- Winter Class Schedule confirmed
- Chris to teach at Pfeiffer Center



CHECKING OUT A BEE EMERGING FROM HER CELL DURING A NUC DEMONSTRATION

Our August 5th lecture had to be cancelled due to a medical emergency. We have rescheduled for **Sunday, August 19th Intro Lecture on Honeybees and Organic Beekeeping 10:30 am – 1 pm** at the Sustainable Living Resource Center in Rosendale. Please pass the word.

Reports of joy from new bee yards.



Andria from NJ, beaming as she installs nuc.



Sammy, from Beacon, NY, at 3yrs old is the youngest apprentice we know.

HoneybeeLives in the news:

Chris was interviewed for a CNN web piece titled “**The Honeybee Factor.**” It was posted on Wed July 18th, and was on their main page for a week! If you want to check it out, go to CNN.com, click on CNN Videos and type the title or Chris Harp in quotes. The piece was produced, shot and edited by the talented Photo Journalist Doug Carroll.

Grai wrote a piece titled “**The Puzzle of the Honeybees’ Plight**” for the **Hudson Valley Green Times** fall issue. It may be featured on the cover!

An article about Chris will be published in an upcoming issue of **The Valley Table**, written by **Tracy Frisch**.

UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS

HIVE MAINTAINENCE - FALL/WINTER PREP

The end of summer is a critical time to tend our hives. It is important that our colonies are strong, as we head towards colder months. Learn how to clean up hives, and look for problems that might weaken your bees. Varroa mite season is in full swing, so vigilance is important, and it may be necessary to treat your hives for these parasites. Understand the options available for treating hives in non-toxic ways. We will also discuss the tools needed for honey harvesting.

Learn about the life in the hive during this transitional time. Understand what you are looking at, and how to judge the strength of a hive. Prepare for fall and winter, to best nurture the bees and boost their immune systems. Let us help you think thru your autumn tasks of fortifying your hives, and answer your questions. \$40 pp. 4 person minimum.

At HoneybeeLives Apiary, 133 Plains Road, NP.
Pre-registration required.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23 2pm – 5:30pm
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 10am – 1:30pm
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 10am – 1:30pm

BEEKEEPERS’ POTLUCK DINNER

HoneybeeLives Apiary

AUGUST 23, 6:30 ‘til?

We had a wonderful Potluck on June 19th. The rain held out until it was just the stragglers slowly wrapping up conversations. There was good food and good company.

Come join us to celebrate this wonderful summer. Please send us an email, if you know you are coming as well as if you know what you will be bringing. We have a new grill! Bringing a chair or two would be helpful.

Hope to see you!

HoneybeeLives will be participating in:

Old New Paltz Day (formerly called the Colonial Street Festival) sponsored by the Huguenot Historical Society in NP on **September 8th** and **Family Farm Day** at Epworth Center in Accord on **September 9th**.

BIG BEAR NEWS!

There have been reports from the hills of more and more sitings of bears with multiple cubs this year. The big news however is where the bears have hit. One of Chris’ hives at Phillis Bridge Farm between NP and Gardiner got hit in May. The last week in July, there were multiple nights and hives hit at Bradley Farm on Springtown Road between NP and Rosendale where Chris is the beekeeper. Chris has been busy piecing back together and fortifying hives all over. Some have made it, others will have to be merged with another hive to save the bees.



Keith Roosa adapted Chris’ cinder block and strap design as a wonderful bear deterrent,, and notice Keith’s water source... it’s a dog watering system. He has filled the basin with stones so there is no possibility of the bees drowning.

ULSTER COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC.

The first meeting of the Ulster County Beekeepers' Association is in the works, and should take place sometime this fall. A space in downtown Rosendale is being considered for a monthly meeting, however we may meet at a private home until we get rolling.

A number of people have voiced interest in participating in its formation, and we look forward to meeting with new and veteran beekeepers when the word gets out.

Until a website and official email is in place I have set up an interim gmail account so that there is some portal for communication.

UlsterCountyBeekeepers@Gmail.com

Pass the word if you know other beekeepers, and have interested people send us their email addresses so we can start an emailing list.

During the last week in July, Chris was called about a beehive in a felled tree in Tilson. The tree men disbanded for the day and promised to return the following day with their bee killing spray so they could finish the job.



Chris was determined to save those girls, and arrived the following morning to cut up the trunk and spare the hive. He ended up leaving them in the tree trunk, so we now have a beautiful tree-trunk hive in the backyard.

TREE TRUNK HIVE



Demo on June 9th at
Living Well in the Watershed:
A Sustainable Home and Garden Festival
In Haworth, NJ



FLOWERS IN BLOOM

The first signs of golden rod have appeared in the fields. It is a wonderful nectar flow for the girls, although the sight of golden rod gives me a twinge of melancholy signaling the last arc of summer. If you have purple loosestrife around watch for the dark green pollen coming in on the girls legs.... it looks surprisingly metallic. If you are lucky enough to have milkweed around you, treasure it as a food for many wonderful insects. If you cut it down after

its first flowering you will likely get a second bloom. Old-fashioned sunflowers are a gift to honeybees. Watching them on the large sunflower faces is a wonderful display.

During the last week in July, I made a trip to the new Lowe's in New Paltz on a home maintenance trip. I stopped by the garden shop to buy mulch, but couldn't resist glancing at the plants for sale. I avoided the aisle with the mums! I found myself overcome with joy as I saw many busy girls working the "Blue Fortune" Agastache. I looked around hoping to share my joy with fellow shoppers or the garden shop staff, however I remained alone in my reverie.



I swept up three flowering pots, and the girls came with as I headed for the check out. I found myself wondering if they were honeybees from Carissa's hives, as there are so few feral hives these days. My thoughts tumbled through memories of conversations... people moanfully asking why they don't see honeybees in their yards anymore.... people saying how starting their own hives has changed their relationship with nature....other people having no idea how sweet and how productive honeybees are.

We are blessed in this area with a healthy environment, partly because there are people who are interested in beekeeping, and I feel blessed that I can go to a mega-store and still feel connected to the earth beyond.

Thank you for your interest and support of honeybees!

Grai St. Clair Rice and Chris Harp

WINTER BEEKEEPING CLASS SCHEDULE 2008

HoneybeeLives at
Sustainable Living Resource Center

Tuesday, January 15

Intro Lecture of Honeybee and Organic Beekeeping
6pm – 8:30pm

Saturday, January 19

Intro to Organic Beekeeping: Planning a New Hive for Spring
10am – 6pm

Sunday, January 20

Understanding and Caring for Your Honeybees
10am – 4pm

Saturday, February 2

Intro to Organic Beekeeping: Planning a New Hive for Spring
10am – 6pm

Sunday, February 3

Understanding and Caring for Your Honeybees
10am – 4pm

We may teach in Granville again in 2008, but it is yet to be determined.

CHRIS TO TEACH AT PFEIFFER CENTER

We are proud to announce that Chris has been asked to teach beekeeping classes at the **Pfeiffer Center** in Chestnut Ridge, NJ. **Gunther Hauk** has "retired" to start the **Spikenard Farm** and Honeybee Sanctuary in Illinois. It is with great honor that Chris accepts.

Pat Imbimbo of **New England Farms** will be building top bar hives from the plans designed by Gunther Hauk and Luis G. Feliciano. These hives will be available for purchase from www.newenglandfarms.com. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Spikenard Farms.

HoneybeeLives will be using this design of top bar hive as an example in future classes.