



Our harvest season is rich with activity.

We have harvested knowledge from others and shared our love of honeybees along our way. Our honeybees have been gentle, and we have watched and listened with never-ending amazement.

Reports of the honey harvest have varied widely. In our local area, drought conditions in late summer, after a cool damp spring-early summer, effected the nectar flow. Some micro-climates, especially north, have yielded incredible volumes of honey for beekeepers, even for some in their first year.

We encourage beekeepers to leave an abundance of honey supply for the bees to over-winter. The honey will be just as wonderful in the spring after the nectar flow has started and the bees are safely on their way into a new season.

Sumac Harvest



GORGEOUS SUMAC READY TO HARVEST

Now is the time to harvest Sumac berries for use in your smokers next season! Enjoy an afternoon hour clipping beautiful red-berry plumes and imbibing the season with all your senses. Make sure they are dried out before storing. (We place them on an old window screen in the sun for a few days.) They will provide a sweet smelling smoke for you and your bees.

“The Silence of The Bees” on Nature

Sunday, October 28th at 8pm, WNET
(re-airs on Saturday November 3 at 6pm)

A documentary about Honeybees and the crisis of CCD, shot on high-definition cameras. From crop fields to hi-tech labs, scientists and bee experts are investigating a rapidly unfolding ecological nightmare

Check out their website
www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/bees/



OUR FAVORITE PHOTO FROM SUMMER IS 4 YR OLD NINA FROM “BEE BUZZ FOR KIDS”

Nurture your Honeybees

FEED! FEED! FEED!

Offering your bees Bee Tea at this time of year is especially important. As we head towards the winter months, it gives a boost to the bees’ immune system, with Thyme and other dried flowers and herbs, The bees still have time to transform it into honey for their winter supply, and this helps fill in the prime hive real estate, left empty by the birth of winter bees.

Also, if your hives are low on food, the queen may not lay a successful amount of brood to pull them thru the winter. She generally only lays as many eggs as food to sustain them.

If you need our Bee Tea recipe email us.

Now that cool weather is finally here in the Northeast, mice will be looking for a warm place to build a nest, and your hives will feel good to them unless you remember to place mouse guards at the entrances. We suggest 1/2" hardware cloth, cut to the width of the hive front, stapled across the front entrance, and a square stapled over any air holes in the hive bodies that aren't plugged with corks.

Cut the wire just above a horizontal bar, with the teeth of the vertical bars reaching to the landing board, so that the bees don't need to step over anything to enter their hive.

Check for Mites

This is the time of year when mites move into their highest reproduction, and just as the numbers of bees begin to dwindle. It is critical to check your varroa trays and note the mite count. If you need to treat for mites, a formic application such as Mite Away II placed in a shim over the brood chamber should help knock them out, however don't wait until it gets too cold. **Heed all warnings on the formic pad instructions!** Use of powdered sugar to encourage the bees to clean off mites has been recommended by others however we haven't tried this.

Tracy Frisch's article "What the Bee Said" is a wonderful seven-page piece focusing on Chris and his nurture of the honeybees. It was published in the Aug-Sept issue of **The Valley Table**. It is not available on their website, however when our website is updated shortly it will be on ours. Please check our website in a couple of weeks.

"The Honeybee in a Coalmine: Why Colony Collapse Disorder Matters to Us All, and What We Can do About It" was the Friday night talk Chris gave for the Hungry Hollow Farmers' Festival on Sept 29th in Chestnut Ridge, NY.

HONEYBEE LIVES AT THE PFEIFFER CENTER

Chestnut Ridge, NY

November 9th at 7pm

Intro Lecture: Bees and Beekeeping

November 10th, 9am – 4pm

Preparing Hives for Winter – A One-day Workshop

For information and registration go to their website
www.pfeiffercenter.org/workshops

Huguenot Beekeepers!

On Sept 8th we participated in Old New Paltz Day as a benefit for the Huguenot Historical Society.



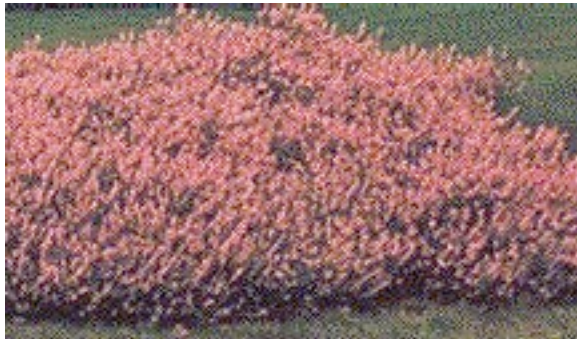
We had honeycomb available for tasting, however a feral hive, in a tree 100 feet away, was readily alerted to our location. The visiting girls multiplied rapidly from one to ten to three hundred in a matter of minutes.

What a waggle dance that must have been! There must be a special dance for HONEY!

Gracie's Honeybee Garden

One of my activities this summer was beginning to reclaim an overgrown garden on our property, originally created by Tracy Martin. I am now working to make it into a honeybee garden. When it becomes established we hope to have it open to the public a couple of days a month, and there will always be something blooming for the girls to forage, and for people to walk thru and observe.

I am planting some winter blooming heather (Erica x darleyensis) for the first time from Rock Spray Nursery in Cape Cod. I look forward to seeing the blossoms peaking up thru the snow for those warming February days when the girls might be flying, and there's nothing else around.



WINTER BLOOMING HEATHER

This garden will be an on-going project... weeds and all.

We are blessed to be beekeepers

Thank you for your interest and support of honeybees, and for being a part of our blessings.

Grai St. Clair Rice and Chris Harp
HoneybeeLives@Yahoo.com

ULSTER COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC.

The Ulster County Beekeepers' Association is planning a kick-off event for January, with other area bee clubs coming to help celebrate. We are looking for the right location for the kick-off.

The regular monthly meeting will be held at the Sustainable Living Resource Center in Rosendale / Cotekill.

www.UlsterCountyBeekeepers.org will be the web address however the site isn't up yet. Until a website and official email is in place an interim email account has been set up as a portal for communication.

UlsterCountyBeekeepers@Yahoo.com

(Please note: the gmail account will no longer be used however everyone who emailed that address will be added to this new one.)

Please pass the word.

A SEASON OF GIVING AHEAD



We have learned from watching the communal work of honeybee colonies. As humans, we can strive to support the wholeness and goodness of human life even in small ways.

Heifer International offers us a wonderful way to give to others a means of supporting themselves and their families. Through donations of livestock and the gift of education people can improve their lives and their communities. A flock of chicks, a trio of rabbits, a share of a water buffalo or a hive of honeybees can change people's lives.

Heifer has a wonderful gift-giving catalogue, both online and in print. We encourage you to share your love and your prosperity. (www.Heifer.org)

WINTER BEEKEEPING CLASS SCHEDULE

Sustainable Living Resource Center
Rosendale, NY

Tuesday, January 15 6pm – 8:30pm
Intro Lecture of Honeybee and Organic Beekeeping

Saturday, January 19 10am – 6pm
Intro to Organic Beekeeping: Planning a New Hive for Spring

Sunday, January 20 10am – 4pm
Understanding and Caring for Your Honeybees

Saturday, February 2 10am – 6pm
Intro to Organic Beekeeping: Planning a New Hive for Spring

Sunday, February 3 10am – 4pm
Understanding and Caring for Your Honeybees

New England Farms - Granville, NY

Saturday, February 9 10am – 6pm
Intro to Organic Beekeeping: Planning a New Hive for Spring

Sunday, February 10 10am – 4pm
Understanding and Caring for Your Honeybees