

# All the Buzz from the Hive

August 2005

Sigh! There's just no end to this nectar flow. Last year our Keeper started taking off the summer honey August 18<sup>th</sup> and had a total of 667 lbs. This year she started July 18<sup>th</sup> and has over 1,000 lbs already. See – we're no slouches, and when "Mother Nature" co-operates – it's really amazing what we can do. Go bee power!! We're sure you will all like this honey; it came from the blueberry blossoms, apple blossoms and the early blooming wildflowers. Nice mild flavour...mmm...honey... We love it!

Sorry to say that yes, the bears did visit us again this Spring. One big fellow or mama – we didn't ask – totally destroyed 2 hives. Sadly nothing could be saved out of those two. However, our Keeper was able to save the queen and a few workers out of another hive the bear got into. Yay for the Keeper! This hive should be strong enough by the Fall to make it through the winter. By the way, if you're ever out and about our way, and happen to find a super (it's a blue box we live in) and 10 frames, could you please return them to our Keeper? It seems that the bear decided to take a bed lunch with him or her and we just can't find it.

We're now being moved off the blueberry fields and back to our "home" yards where we will stay for the winter and until we go back on the blueberry fields next Spring. Thank goodness - we hate being moved and everyone gets upset (and boy, are there a lot of us!) We have to find a new nectar source and know where to find our hive/home when we do fly home from a trip. Besides that – you know what happens when someone gets upset – they eat!! So we eat honey. But it's so good...mmm nectar of the gods and all that ....yum yum! At least it gives us lots of energy. We're just a buzzing ...

Here's another historic period of fun facts to "wow" and impress your friends and family...

*Did you know...?*

- The Romans were also fascinated with honey. Aristotle wrote that honey was "dew distilled from the stars and rainbows"
- Ancient Roman and Greek cuisines balanced sweetness with tart, bitter and savoury flavours.
- Honey was also used as a preservative, along with brine and vinegar, for meat, fruits and vegetables.
- Ancient Romans used honey (along with brine, pitch and oil) to preserve the heads of traitors, criminals and enemies of the state who had been killed outside Rome. The heads, thus preserved to ID them, were brought back to Rome and put on public display at the Forum.
- Supposedly, Alexander the Great was buried in a gold coffin with the purest white honey.
- Romans could also pay their taxes with honey.

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