

# All the Buzz from the Hive

October 2005

La, la, la...we're so good, so good; oh baby we're so good! - Oh! Umm, hi Queenie, I – ah – didn't see you there. I know, I'm bragging and maybe I shouldn't be – but we produced some pile of honey this year, we worked so hard! Yes, you're right, we couldn't have done it without Mother Nature's co-operation and I know the clover crop the farmer planted helped – but we *were* the ones out there everyday hauling it in bit by bit. Yes, Queen, I'll get back to work now.... she's gone... everyone now! - "Oh we're so good, so good...la, la, la..."

Oh, sorry, I didn't see you there! Well, I suppose I was a little busy with my singing – but now that you're here, boy do I have some news for you! Shall we get to it then? Here we go then...

On good flying days we fly to the big house to clean beeswax (we've been doing this since the pollen flow has started to slow down) but our Keeper doesn't put it out too much anymore. We went up the other morning and you wouldn't believe what we saw! There it was, "clear as mud" - bear prints on the old honey house door, on both doors of the new honey house and also on the window! We all figure he can smell our honey being extracted. Our Keeper won't be happy if "he" damages her new honey house. Bad enough she had to buy a new door for the old honey house that the bear had damaged earlier. Let me tell you, sometimes a life of a bee looks *really* good.

That guy that's always with our Keeper (they kind of dress alike come to think of it...) parks the truck by our hives every night and hangs these smelly T-shirts on the mirrors – boy do they smell! We're thinking of petitioning our Keeper for clothespins or the like for our noses, do you think we would have a fighting chance? Anyway, this is supposed to keep the bear away and so far it's worked, or maybe it's the electric fence.

Queenie says this other guy in white is like her drone. Our drones get kicked out of the hive just before winter – they don't work after all, so out they go. Our Keeper doesn't do that, so he must keep working all winter, 'cause he's always there in the spring again. We don't understand that. We just make new ones in the spring. Silly humans....

This will be our last newsletter, but we're really glad you take the time to read them and that you enjoy our honey. Okay, so that is the official word – but rumour around the beeyard is that there might be something out around October 22<sup>nd</sup>...but you didn't hear that from me, okay? I could get in trouble for spilling the honey, so to speak. Take care all and have a "sweet" winter!

*To round out the tidbits of the summer...*

- As the Catholic Church became more prominent in Europe, the need for beekeepers increased – not so much for the honey – but for the beeswax. Produced by "virgin bees" beeswax was seen as pure and appropriate for Christian worship.
- Apiculture became a skill cultivated by monasteries, but it was an American, the Rev. LL. Langstroth, a Philadelphia beekeeper and naturalist, who developed what we now use as a beehive, in 1853.

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