



[www.JeffcoBeekeepers.org](http://www.JeffcoBeekeepers.org)

Winter 2021/ 2022, Volume 8



# Jefferson County Beekeeper Association



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### Membership

Yearly dues: \$25.00 which includes membership in the Colorado State Beekeepers Association.

We are not set up yet for on-line payments. [Email](mailto:jeffcohoneys@gmail.com) the club treasurer for information on how to join.

Jefferson County Beekeeper Association  
Newsletter. Winter 2021/2022, Vol. 8

#### Association Leadership

President	Doug Rush
Vice President	Jessica Padgham
Secretary	April Johnson, Pat Donahue
Treasurer	Kip Davis, Teri Dowgiert
Apiary Manager	Kathy Gill

#### Editors (alphabetical)

Kathy Gill	Eric Skougstad
April Johnson	

#### Writers (alphabetical)

Kathy Gill	April Johnson
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#### Layout/ Design

Eric Skougstad/ Uff Da Media, Antiquated magazine

JCBA Meetings, second Sunday of every month at 1 p.m., weather permitting, at our apiary.

## About Us

Jefferson County Beekeeper Association was established in 1998 by a group of backyard beekeepers. Meetings with outside speakers were held several times a year combined with social events. The club went dormant in 2007 as membership waned but was never officially abolished. In 2019 with a surge of interest in beekeeping and new ordinances allowing backyard beehives, local beekeepers saw the need to revitalize the club. We hope to connect with new and experienced beekeepers in and around Jefferson County and are looking forward to many years of successful beekeeping!

**COVER:** "Beehive," by Caroline Whelan.  
"An illustration from a series about hair and nature. This illustration depicts the Beehive hairstyle. This painting was featured on a bottle from Collective Arts Brewery's Second Series." Prints available online [here](https://www.collectivearts.com/).

Website: [www.jeffcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.jeffcobeekkeepers.org)

Email: [jeffcohoneys@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcohoneys@gmail.com)

## Notes From Last Meetings

### October 10, 2021

Thirty people showed up for the meeting. Six people are brand new to the club, and a few of those are brand new to beekeeping. All dues for new and old club members will be collected in January of 2022 to make it easier to keep track.

Doug started at 1:10 pm. We talked about checking and treating for mites: only a few reported high mite counts. Most of those with low counts are treating anyway. Several people brought sugar block boards and candy/fondant boards to share, and quilt boards.

Question on pollen patties for winter. Sue cited a study that says pollen patties are good for raising fat winter bees. Some do not use pollen patties until spring. Some reported their bees are still bringing in natural pollen.

Feed! Feed! Feed! is the mantra of the day. Kathy has printed copies of the latest newsletter. We had a raffle of six small sample jars of club honey. Lots of small group discussions and some Q&A. Meeting adjourned at 3:00.

### November 14, 2021

The meeting was in our new indoor venue at Maple Grove Grange, 3130 Youngfield St., Wheatridge 80215. Lots of chairs, tables, and room to spread out. Everyone agreed it was the best spot. We have reserved every 2nd Sunday through next November.

Doug opened the meeting at 1:10 with twenty-eight people in attendance. We welcomed new members and introduced Eric Smith, CSBA President. Kathy gave a brief synopsis of the CSBA Winter meeting, stressing some of Randy Oliver's key points: We need young, vibrant queens, getting ahead of the mites.

Treasurer's report: Kip and Teri revealed \$1,108.12 in our account, not including honey money and money brought in today. Teri mentioned the change in how the CSBA is doing their dues collection.

Doug went over winter wrap-up for apiary hives and others, candy boards, quilt boards, ventilation, and windbreaks. We will do an OAV demonstration on the apiary hives in December on a weekend and in the afternoon. Derek talked about the Ute Trail Garden and the honey sales that happened there. Kip wants to offer a robbing screen-making class. Reminder to order bees early if planning on buying bees. April will check with Greg from Dakota Bees.

### Ideas for next year:

Members who want outside speakers for next year- Doug will check on Mario Padilla from the Butterfly Pavilion.

Spring demonstration on hive splitting.

Bring in a speaker to talk about plants that bees like and their bloom times.

Spring/March swarm class. Ask Eric Johnson.

Discussion: Do we publish a roster so members can contact other members/ close-by beekeepers?

Put together a comprehensive list of beekeeping books on the website.

-April Johnson

### Congratulations!

Pat D. has graduated the Apprentice Level for the Master Beekeeper Program Colorado State Beekeeper Association. She has been accepted into the Journeyman Level.

### Some Facts to Know

Honey Bees will store dry pollen but not pollen patties. For more information about this, go to <http://ScientificBeekeeping.org>. So where does the fed pollen sub go?

Tracing the Fate of Pollen Substitute Patties on Western Honey Bee (*Hymenoptera Apidae*) Colonies Journal of Economic Entomology, Volume 114, Issue 4, August 2021, Pages 1421-1430, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toab083>

### Becoming a Member

For information about becoming a member, please write to [jeffcohoneybee@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcohoneybee@gmail.com).

Dues include membership to Colorado State Beekeepers Association.

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/jeffcobeekeepers/>

### Jefferson County Beekeeper Association Website

At [jeffcobeekeepers.org](http://jeffcobeekeepers.org) you can sign up for membership, see upcoming meetings, find a mentor, and more! Be sure to check it out.

**If there is a topic you want us to provide or want to share or write an article let us know. Write to [jeffcohoneybee@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcohoneybee@gmail.com)**

### Meetings

Meetings are the second Sunday of each month, 1 pm at Maple Grove Grange Hall, 3130 Youngfield St., Wheatridge, CO 80215

\*\*\*Starting in 2022 we will be offering hands-on clinics at the Apiary each month to follow up on discussions and speaker topics from the previous meeting.

### Mentoring

Beekeeping may seem overwhelming.

Indeed, there is quite a bit to do and remember!

Jefferson County Beekeeper Association offers mentoring programs. We have seasoned keepers willing to take new keepers under their wings. Contact us for more information.

## Tentative JCBA Calendar for 2022

**January 9** - Business meeting. Welcome new beekeepers, introduce board members, collect dues, show several types of hives, bee package orders. Facebook and website update.

**February 13** - 12:00 noon. Round table discussion for anyone thinking about starting to raise bees. Seasoned beekeepers will be available to answer all questions. 1:00 pm regularly scheduled meeting presenting work by Katharine Davitt on her research on bananas for bees.

**February 20** - Basic Beekeeping Class 9am-3pm.

**March 13** - Speaker Eric Smith Making Splits. And Kelli Marko Bee Safe Yards

**March 19** - Follow up clinic splitting hives at the apiary.

**April 10** - Swarm presentation by Eric Johnson

**April 23** - Follow up clinic at Apiary looking for swarming signs.

**May 8** - Speaker Lisa Mason from CSU extension on Native Bees.

**May 14** - Follow up at the JCBA apiary on reading the frames and marking queens.

**June 12** - Queen rearing class with KT Thompson

**June 18** - Follow up clinic at the Apiary grafting queens.

**July 10** - Varroa control – Joe Komperda, Master Beekeeper.

**July 16** - Follow up clinic demonstration on alcohol, sugar roll, and dawn mite checks.

**August 14** - TBD

**August 20** - At JCBA apiary checking honey supers and pulling honey frames.

**September 11** - Honey harvest/end of year celebration at the Jeffco Fairgrounds.

**Sept 17** - Follow up clinic at apiary. Beekeeping Olympics, fun Bee activities.

**October 9** - Products from the hive, Bryan Zavada

**October 15** - At apiary “Re-arrange the furniture” in preparation for winter.

**November 13** - Winterizing- candy boards, quilt boards share fondant recipes.

**November 19** - Follow up clinic at the apiary. Winterize the hives.

**December** - OAV demonstration at Apiary.

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE A BEEKEEPER WHEN...

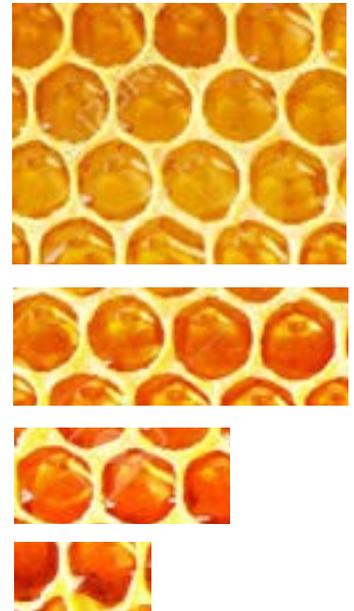
1. There is propolis on the steering wheel of your car and the bottom of your boots.
2. You are called “the Bee Man,” or “the Bee Lady” by a lot of people who don't know your name.
3. There is a bucket of something in your garage that can only be good for smoker fuel.
4. The windshield of your vehicle has at least two yellow dots on it.
5. You come home smelling like a camp fire, and you haven't been camping.
6. You are keenly aware of the first and last freezes of each winter.
7. You don't mind driving home with a few bees inside your car.
8. You've gone through the checkout line buying nothing more than a load of sugar.
9. You know the bloom period of more local flowers than the state horticulturist.
10. Your family and friends know exactly what they're going to get for Christmas.



## JCBA Honey Production 2021

**Collection:** twenty-five frames of capped honey were collected from the club apiary hives (#1,2,5) during the summer. The frames were stored in sealed plastic tubs until extraction event.

**Extraction:** The frames of honey were extracted on September 11, during the club event held at Jefferson County Fair Grounds Rodeo Concession Stand kitchen. Approximately eight gallons of strained honey were collected into 5-gallon buckets with honey gates. Capping's were collected into a 3-gallon bucket. Bottling was done under hygienic conditions in the presence of three members with current Cottage Food Safety Certificates.



We received this e-mail from one of our neighbors. Oh, rejoice for apiary success! My photo of Paris' Opera Garnier, where statue “Harmony” summons her bees, and yet, my neighbors produced the finest gold, taste addictive, consistency as satin. Please allow me to purchase 2 ea., pints. Thank you, D.

# Notes from Colorado State Beekeeping Association in November 2021

The Winter meeting was held on November 6, 2021. It was a hybrid meeting with participants in person and by zoom.

The Douglas County Fair-grounds in Castle Rock was a big enough venue for the hybrid meeting.

Eric Smith, President of CSBA, gave a welcoming speech and thanked members for joining.

Randy Oliver, [ScientificBee-keeping.org](http://ScientificBeekeeping.org), was the first speaker on zoom talking about "Reading the Frame." His presentation was informative for both beginner and seasoned beekeepers. His graph of the learning curve of beekeepers based on work by Dunning and Kruger in 1999 and 2009 was most interesting.

He reminded us that there is always something to learn; nobody knows it all.

He also discussed his genetic research into the natural selection of uncapping and capping bees for mite control in his yards. Finally, he answered questions from the zoom audience and in-person group.

Katharina Devitt, Master Beekeeper, presented her final study at the University of Montana. "A Scientific Study of the Benefits of Feeding Bananas to Honey Bees," via Zoom. This new and interesting subject was about the benefit of feeding cavendish bananas as a carbohydrate resource to the bees. She also invited questions from the Zoom and in-person audience.

The business meeting followed with reports from the various committees at CSBA, Educational Outreach, Pesticide Advisor,

1981 menu from the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Swarm Hotline, Club Liaison, Queen Rearing Program, Master Beekeeping Program, WAS, ABF, AHPS.

The election of new officers followed with Secretary Joe Komperda, Treasurer Kathryn Thompson, Advisor Tina Sebestyn, and Advisor Dru Spunizzi to be the new officers. Also voted in was voting rights given to the three advisors.

Jim Tew via Zoom spoke about "Unauthorized ideas that succeeded and failed for him. His colorful presentation was lighthearted yet

informative.

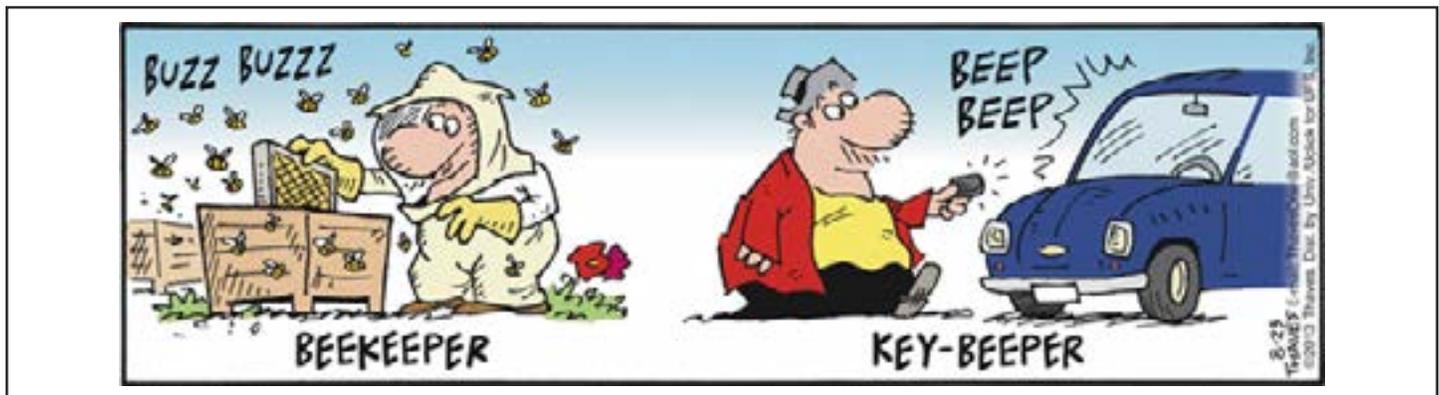
Dewey Caron was there in person speaking about Colony Stressors, i.e., "The 4 Ps": parasites, pathogens, pesticides, and poor nutrition. He added that there is a fifth- people.

Did you know an Africanized worker bee's life cycle from egg to adult is only 19 days, and a drone's cycle is 20 days? This shortened cycle does not give the mite much time to reproduce under capped cells. He keeps Africanized Honey

Bees in Bolivia. He added that Africanized are the only kind of honey bees there.

The Big Money Honey Contest Awards followed with 1st, 2nd, 3rd ribbons given in each category.

In addition, the Grand Champion winners were presented receiving monetary rewards for their entrees. The meeting concluded with a raffle; prizes included items like a bee suit, a smoker, and a signed copy of the book "Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping," by Dewey Caron.



Do you know? (Answers on page eight)

1- Prior to egg deposition, the queen honey bee inspects each cell. True or False

# Honeybees Also Social Distance

By Tanya Lewis, originally published in Scientific American

Humans are not the only animals that practice social distancing to deal with a deadly pathogen: A new study shows honeybees change their behavior and use of space to avoid spreading Varroa destructor mites, which feed on bees' organs and can harbor nasty viruses. Researchers observed these changes in wild and caged bees infected with the mites, which are one of the biggest global threats to honeybees.

The team found that in the infected wild populations, older forager bees would

perform foraging dances—which they use to show other bees where to find food—near the periphery of the hive. These actions seemed intended to avoid sickening the young nurse bees and larvae in the hive's center. The infected wild bees also groomed one another for parasites more intensely in the center of the hive, among the more valuable young bees. The findings were reported in Science Advances.

"We interpreted this change in the social organization as a possible strategy

to limit the spread of the parasite within the hive," says lead study author Michelina Pusceddu, an agricultural scientist at the University of Sassari in Italy.

As predicted, the infected bees in cages received more grooming than uninfected bees. But contrary to expectations, the infected bees engaged in more socializing as well, such as touching antennae and sharing regurgitated food. This may reflect a trade-off between limiting disease spread and maintaining communication,

the authors say. "Probably social distancing is too costly at a small scale or within the same cohort," notes senior study author Alberto Satta, also at the University of Sassari.

The study provides an example of how "we can find evidence for really complicated behavioral changes that [social animals] have—like the social distancing phenomenon—to deal with the special challenges of living in a big social group," says Adam Dolezal, an entomologist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who was not involved with the new study. Dolezal's own research has shown that honeybees reduce their contact with bees infected with a pathogen called Israeli acute paralysis virus, which the insects can detect by smell.

Black garden ants, lobsters, birds and nonhuman primates also show social distancing behavior. But for any social animal, keeping one's distance comes with a cost.

Tanya Lewis is a senior editor at Scientific American who covers health and medicine. She wrote this for the Scientific American February 2022 Issue, and can be seen [here](#). Visit Scientific American [here](#).



Credit: Redmond Durrell/Alamy Stock Photo

Do you know? (Answers on page eight)

2. Colonies should not be opened to check cluster location and determine if emergency feeding is necessary until the temperature reaches a minimum of \_\_\_\_

- A. 20 degrees
- B. 40 degrees
- C. 60 degrees
- D. 30 degrees
- E. 50 degrees

# Bee Appearance and Behavior May Be Related, Genetic Study Reveals

Recently discovered genetic knowledge of two nuisance western honey bee subspecies will help commercial and hobby beekeepers.

A new UF/IFAS study identified genetic characteristics relevant to the production and behavioral attributes of these two key bee subspecies. For example, researchers found Cape bees to be significantly darker than Africanized bees. This dark coloring could be genetically correlated to their undesired behavior.

Both subspecies are undesired in the United States. The first, the “killer bee” or “Africanized honey bee,” known scientifically as *A.m. scutellata*, is a light-colored bee known for its territorial and defensive nature. This subspecies was taken from its native habitat in South Africa to Brazil in the 1950’s. There, it hybridized with the European bee subspecies kept

by Brazilian beekeepers, and then moved into the U.S.

*A.m. scutellata* are considered invasive bees and can take over colonies of managed honey bees, which can lower profits for beekeepers. They also are known for their heightened defensive behavior.

The second subspecies studied, the “cape honey bee,” known scientifically as *A.m. capensis*, presents a slew of problems to beekeepers. These bees are more docile but are more likely than African honey bees to take over hives. Cape bees are considered social parasites. Unlike other honey bee subspecies, cape worker bees can clone themselves, producing female eggs without first mating. These clones can take over a hive. These workers cannot reproduce at the same rate as a traditional queen and the colony will eventually dwindle and

collapse, a phenomenon coined “*capensis* calamity.”

“More amazing than the cape bee worker’s ability to clone itself is the rate at which it can take over other colonies,” said Jamie Ellis, UF/IFAS professor. “We are working to ensure these bees do not make their way to the United States because in most cases, when these bees take over a colony, the colony is doomed.”

Genetic studies can be used to understand “why the way things are” for an organism. In this case, researchers sought to understand what genetic traits contribute to the appearance of these bees and their behavior. Using data collected from South African bees from a previous USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service funded study in 2013 and 2014, scientists sought to understand what genes are responsible for the physical characteristics

of these subspecies.

“We found really interesting variations in the genes of these bees that can help explain why they look and behave differently,” said Laura Patterson Rosa, UF/IFAS graduate student and co-lead author of the study. “There are a lot of implications to what we found. We have not yet been able to verify these new discoveries in additional populations, but if our findings stand the test of time, it could partially explain why we see behavioral changes, why they do not acknowledge the existence of queens of other subspecies and why they can clone themselves when other bees cannot.”

“Color phenotype is an important aspect to beekeeping management,” said Ellis. “It can help beekeepers know what type of honey bee they have.” Cape bees are significantly darker than the Africanized bees. This dark coloring could be genetically correlated to their cloning and colony takeover behavior. “There are potentially over 30 subspecies of honey bees. We investigated only two in the published study,” said Ellis. “Does this finding hold true for the other dark colored honey bee subspecies? It would be interesting to look for these mutations across all western honey bee subspecies to determine if this is the case.”

Curiosity about traits, characteristics and color and how they impact behavior persists as researchers hope to use these findings for future research.

Special thanks to supporters of this research including USDA APHIS and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the guidance of the Honey Bee Technical Council.

Pulled from [ScienceDaily.com](http://ScienceDaily.com). Original article can be seen [here](#).

ScienceDaily.com: “Materials provided by University of Florida. Original written by Tory Moore. Note: Content may be edited for style and length.”



Just by looking at them, you cannot tell if a honey bee has African *scutellata* ancestry, Erin Calfee says. “There are subtle differences in body size--*scutellata* are slightly smaller and have shorter wings--but there’s also a lot of variation between individual bees. (Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey)

Do you know? (Answers on page eight)

3. Removing or destroying drone brood in colonies encourages its production. True or False.

## Telling the Bees: The Loss of Tom Theobald

By Rachel Gabel

Tradition and custom require that, upon the death of a beekeeper, the bees quickly be told their Master is gone, but not to worry, as they will be taken care of. Tom Theobald's friends made their way to the hives he kept this week to tell the bees of his passing.

Theobald, the preeminent beekeeper in Colorado, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 10. A full obituary and service details are forthcoming.

Miles McGaughey said he first knew of Theobald after he gave him a stern talking to regarding his speeding while McGaughey was a student at Niwot High School in the late 1970s.

In the mid-1980s, McGaughey took an increased interest in beekeeping. Each time he checked out a beekeeping book from the library it had Tom Theobald's name on the card as the other borrower.

Longmont, Colo., rancher, the late LaVon Pope recommended that McGaughey contact Theobald, a bee expert whose column she read in The

Fence Post magazine.

"He was the last bee inspector in the state of Colorado and he did it all for free as a service to beekeepers," he said. "I always thought he was like the Bee Police, so I kind of kept my head down and avoided him."

Education was a lifelong pursuit for Tom Theobald, shown here in a parade as part of the award-winning float. Photo courtesy Miles McGaughey

Eventually, he bumped into Theobald and introduced himself. He was invited to Theobald's home to visit about beekeeping. That day, Theobald said it took only a few minutes to recognize that McGaughey had "the fever" bad.

"That was a good designation that you were crazy about beekeeping," he said. "For whatever reason, he took pity on me and gave me a lot of his time, effort, and energy. He always answered every question, and he would go out of his way to look at a problem and give his honest assessment."

PROTECTING THE HIVES  
Theobald established the

Boulder County Beekeeping Association in 1984 to address pesticide issues in Boulder County. The use of the pesticide Pencap was common at the time, and it was particularly deadly to bees.

As a result of the formation of the association and the organized way Theobald and others communicated to the Colorado Department of Agriculture resulted in the creation of a spray map. This map showed the location of every hive in the county, allowing aerial applicators the opportunity to alert beekeepers when they would be spraying in the area, thereby reducing their liability. Beekeepers had a chance to cover or relocate hives so the applicators could safely treat the area, making it a positive working relationship for all involved.

Theobald checking one of the two-Queen beehives he was famous for. Photo courtesy Miles McGaughey

He and McGaughey trucked over 300 packages of bees from California, keeping the bees in Boulder County thriving after

the hives were struck with Colony Collapse Disorder.

"He had a knack in imparting the different kinds of beekeeping — there's a lot of different ways to skin that cat," he said. "He would categorize himself not as a commercial beekeeper, but as a village beekeeper. That he was responsible for the flowers and the birds and the bees and the people in a community where he was the go-to beekeeper."

His particular style of beekeeping, he said, was unusual as he was able to keep two queen bees, working simultaneously in the same hive. That two queen beekeeping system goes against nature in which queens don't coexist, but instead kill one another.

"However, Tom had the technology and the touch, if you will, for them to coexist and they more than doubled their output when they had that kind of synergy," he said.

Most hives produce 40 to 80 pounds of honey per season, but McGaughey said one of

Continued on next page



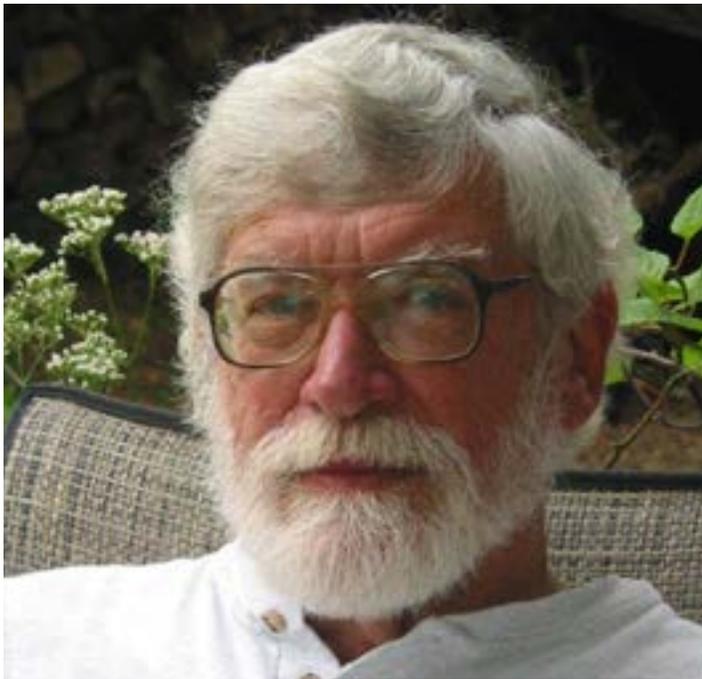
Left: Theobald checking one of the two-Queen beehives he was famous for. Photo courtesy Miles McGaughey Right: Education was a lifelong pursuit for Tom Theobald, shown here in a parade as part of the award-winning float. Photo courtesy Miles McGaughey.

### Do you know? Answers:

1. True-The queen, upon locating a suitable cell, puts her head and forelegs into it. The cell inspection lasts about three seconds. Then, if the cell meets her approval, she inserts her abdomen and lays an egg.
2. B. 40 degrees
3. True. Drone comb construction and brood production are related to the amount of drone comb and brood already present. Removing drone brood from colonies encourages production, and adding drone brood to colonies diminishes production.

## Jefferson County Beekeeper Association

Top Left: Tom Theobald is a beekeeper from Colorado. He has been a long time campaigner against Neonicotinoids and was the president of the Boulder County Beekeepers' Association for over thirty years. Top Right: Beekeeping Today Podcast interview with Theobald about Two Queen Honey Production with Tom Theobald (S3, E32) [here](#). Photo Credit: Beekeeping Today. Bottom: Theobald featured in [5280 Magazine](#).



Theobald's two queen hives would produce upwards of 400 pounds per season. It is that two queen beekeeping system that is carved into the bench that marks he and his wife, Barbara's final resting place.

### EDUCATING THE MASSES

Theobald was instrumental in helping practically every beekeeper in the state get their

start and spoke regularly at beekeeping association meetings. He wrote regularly for Bee Culture Magazine, American Bee Keeping Journal, and he authored the official history of Colorado beekeeping for the Colorado Beekeeping Association.

Tom Theobald in a California bee yard preparing to bring

bees back to Boulder County, Colorado. Photo courtesy Miles McGaughey.

Theobald had a strong interest in history and the history farm on Highway 66 between Hygiene and Longmont is a testament to that. Theobald filled it with his original beekeeping equipment and a replica of a honey house.

"Most of his legacy is intellectual," he said. "We're going to endeavor to keep that alive and to keep talking to people and to keep the education flowing."

Theobald sold his Niwot Honey Farms honey worldwide, and McGaughey said it was a premium product and highly sought after.

"Of all the things, I would say Tom was an exceptional communicator and he could make the foreign and alien world of insects seem understandable and close," he said. "He loved his readers. I've known a lot of authors of different bee pieces, but the difference was Tom loved his readers and he treated his readers like he knew them all individually."

He said Theobald was often recognized when out and about for his column in The Fence Post magazine. He relished the opportunity to meet his readers and McGaughey said there are thousands of hives that are the result of beekeepers reading Tom Theobald in The Fence Post.

Written by Rachel Gabel for the [Fencepost](#), an agricultural magazine based in Greeley, Colorado. Link to article [here](#).

# Recipes!

**Recipe:** White Chocolate Mocha Mint and Honey Cream  
Makes 4 servings      **Ingredients:**

2 T. honey	1 C espresso coffee
Two ½ C whipped cream	1 t mint extract
2 C. milk	Crushed mints (optional garnish)
1 C.-white chocolate chips or 1 C. of grated vanilla bark	

**Directions:**

1. Add milk and two cups of whipped cream into a medium-size saucepan and heat over high heat. Bring to a boil.
2. Add white chocolate and 1 Tablespoon of honey.
3. Turn down the heat and add the coffee and mint extract.
4. Cook on low another 2-3 minutes.
5. Pour into mugs and top with heavy cream,

For heavy cream, add ½ cup of whipped cream and 1 Tablespoon of honey into a small bowl and mix using an electric mixer. Keep beating until stiff peaks.

**Serves:**      **From:**

# Recipes!

## Peppermint Candy Crisps

Yield; Makes 48 servings

1/4 C. butter or margarine, soft	1/2 C. honey	1 1/3 C - flour	1/4 t. salt
One egg	2 oz. - semi-sweet chocolate chips, melted	1/2 t. baking powder	1/4 C. peppermint stick candy, crushed
1 T. milk		1/2 t. baking soda	

Directions:

1. In a mixing bowl, cream butter and honey until fluffy.
2. Add melted chocolate. Mix well.
3. Blend in egg and milk.
4. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add to creamed mixture and mix well.
5. Chill dough for at least 30 minutes.
6. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet about two inches apart. Press each cookie with the bottom of a glass coated with flour to flatten. Sprinkle each cookie with crushed peppermint stick candy.
7. Bake at 350°F for 8 to 10 minutes until done.
8. Cool slightly before removing from cookie sheet. Cool on rack.

Microwave: Follow recipe directions. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper or microwave baking sheet. Cook on HIGH: six cookies - cook for 1 minute, 15 seconds. Twelve cookies - cook for 2 to 2-1/2 minutes. Cool cookies slightly before removing.