

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY INSTALLS BEEHIVE AT SOYUZIVKA, Kerhonkson NY.

The Ukrainian American Beekeepers Society (UABS) installed a Ukrainian style beehive on the Soyuzivka property in Kerhonkson NY on this beautiful fall afternoon, October 10, 2014. Nestled in a clearing in the area of the apple orchard amongst other nectar and pollen producing trees such as acacia, birch and pines, this new habitat will provide a protected space for field days and workshops for beekeepers, friends of the honeybee and nature lovers, young and old.

Senior beekeeper, Mykola Hromluk of Korsun-Shevchenkivskiy, a city located in the Cherkasy Oblast in central Ukraine, and Petrusia Paslawsky of Towaco, NJ were instrumental in the apiary setup. Nestor Paslawsky, manager of the Soyuzivka property provided the superb location for the installation of new Ukrainian style beehive or "vulyk" with the help of Stefko Drabyk, assistant, who now is the newest of beekeepers and agreed to help care for the honeybee colony.

"We'll see how the pollination helps the aging apple trees and help the bees survive better in this natural environment." Paslawsky remarked. He also said twenty young linden (Lypa) trees have been planted on the Soyuzivka property in recent years.

Since 2006, honey bees have been disappearing from their hives caused by a condition called Colony Collapse Disorder. Researchers have agreed that it is a combination of reasons why 30% of US honeybee population is not surviving its first winter. Pesticides, parasites, monocultures, lack of forage, commercial beekeeping practices, chemical exposure and some beekeeper practices such as swarm suppression and overfeeding with nectar substitutes(such as table sugar) are just some of the reasons for the honey bee decline.

Honeybees require sources of nectar, pollen and water to produce the food they need to survive the colder winters and to improve their immune systems to protect them from disease and parasites. Nectar, which the bees convert to honey provides the bee with carbohydrate source needed for flight, colony maintenance and is a source of various minerals such as calcium, copper, potassium, magnesium and sodium depending on its floral source. This is why variety of forage is so important. Pollen is the honeybee's primary source of protein, vitamins, fats and more. The quantity and type of amino acids present in pollen varies by the floral source from which the pollen was collected. Just like humans, bees need a well-rounded diet. When inspecting a honey bee colony, one should see frames with a rainbow of pollen colors (orange, yellow, red, white, green, blue etc.) Bees require pollen for growth and development.

Petrusia Paslawsky believes that in the case of honey bee nutrition, it is quality not quantity of the pollen and nectar source that makes a more profound difference in honey bee health. The diversity of the wildflowers, where the daisy like asters, bee balm, golden rod, the wild mints all contribute to improving the diet of the honeybee. A beekeeper should be familiar with both nectar and pollen producing plants in their area. One of the objectives of the UABS is to spread the word to those who may want to help, by way of planting better forage plants for the bees.

BEE DANCE, a short documentary on Beekeeping methods in Ukraine and US will be screened on November 7, 2014 at 7PM at UACCNJ as part of the Arts, Cultural and Education Program in Whippany, NJ. Come join the members and friends of the Ukrainian American Beekeepers Society and learn how the bee dance is truly a shared language of the honeybee and humans alike!