

# Honey Letter 2002

We hope this letter finds you and your family well this Christmas. We had a wonderful honey harvest this year, made possible by all the baby bees born to our two new hives we started in the spring. Thousands and thousands of baby bees began to emerge from the two new hives. The baby bees, unlike mammalian babies, immediately go to work, first working as nurse bees, feeding the larvae and newly emerged bees. Subsequently they become field bees gathering honey. Or they might become queen attendants, or guard bees or air conditioning bees, bringing in droplets of water to fan and cool the hive. As soon as their wings are dry from birth, they are working in the hive.

This is in contrast to the other babies we have had at Cedar Run this year. Niagra had a colt, named Nahanni, who was at least able to get up and run around within minutes of birth. We got a golden retriever puppy named Rocket, who now runs around like a terror, but spent weeks after his birth like any other pup, a bundle of helpless fur. Finally and most importantly, we had on December 2, 2002 our two baby boys, Aubrey David Leavenworth and Beaufort James

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Leavenworth who are healthy and vigorous but must spend the first few weeks of their life in the Intermediate Care Nursery at University Hospital. No chores for them for a few years, but we are making a list!

We did the honey harvest on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>. Lyse was the chief thief and Tom was the wheelhorse, driving the wagon with the honey and also scraping and centrifuging the combs. We harvested four full supers of honey; two from the established hive and one each from the new hives. This made for about 100 pounds of honey. The bees were cooperative and the harvest was smooth, with no sting casualties.

We wish you a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**, and the best of luck with your babies too!

Lyse and Tom