

SWEET TALK

The newsletter of the Greene County Beekeepers Association

BEE Aware-- Odds and Ends:

Bill Starrett

Now that September has arrived about the only thing left to bloom that has the potential of providing substantial surplus honey is goldenrod. In this part of the state whatever blooms from July on normally provides only maintenance amounts of nectar, just enough to keep bees from consuming what they have stored earlier. Last year was an exception and I had colonies which put on significant weight from the goldenrod enabling them to enter winter well supplied without feeding. I can't remember ever having that much nectar in the fall before.

The bees that are raised from this point on are the bees which will over winter and those that will raise the winter bees so it is important that they are healthy and as free of varroa by now as is possible. Now our attention should be to assess the amount of honey the colony has and where it is located. Ideally it should be located immediately above and to the sides of the box containing the brood nest. As the winter cluster consumes the honey the cluster will move upward providing empty cells in which some brood may be raised throughout the winter which is more characteristic of Italian bees than other races.

Before cold weather arrives the number of boxes on hives should be reduced so the bees have less area to maintain. If honey and brood is currently spread throughout several boxes the brood and

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The Place to Bee on

Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

September 20, 2016

Meeting Call to Order
Welcome and New Member Introduction
Overview and Free Raffle Tickets

Reports

4-H
Projects
OSBA
Area Reports

Announcements

Show and Tell
Wax, what to do with that dark stuff?
BEE-Short, Practical Beekeeping
Aug and Sept Calendar
How to find your queen
Questions/Concerns

Refreshments

Main Speaker: Barbara Bloetscher

Topic: Bee Pests Starring The Small Hive Beetle

Raffle and Adjourn

President's Letter

I really enjoyed our last meeting. We are blessed with some real bee raising talent in the club. Thanks to Tom and Fran Davidson for sharing their bee raising secrets. A special thank you to those who provided the snacks and drinks for the refreshment break.

News Flash! We will be meeting in the Buckeye Room at the Greene County Extension Office for our October 18th meeting. The building is located behind the Grandstands at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia. Please mark your calendars for this venue change for October 18th. September 20th we will be in the normal place on Ledbetter Road.

Feeding Season: It may seem strange but I encourage you to monitor your hives for honey stores. If they are light, feed 2 cups of sugar to 1 cup of water until fall weather arrives (about 45 degrees at night) then switch to sugar bricks or fondant. Only the strong survive! (the winter).

Next Meeting: Barbara Bloetscher, who is in charge of the Ohio State Bee Inspection system, will be our featured speaker. She always has insight into any problems that are creeping into the state.

On the farm, we have been busy collecting honey. The moisture in the early summer was surprisingly low. But now it is running a little high. There are several methods to remove this high moisture. I personally use two methods. First I run a dehumidifier with

blowing air circulating over frames I have pulled, especially if there is open (uncapped) honey. This will draw down the moisture. After I spin the frames, if the moisture is still high I run the dehumidifier on high and slowly drip the honey out of one bucket into another. Repeat until the moisture is correct (below 18.6%).

Now is the time to configure the hives for winter. I personally overwinter in three deeps. Two deeps, two deeps and a medium also work. So I am increasing weak hives by adding capped brood and also joining together using the newspaper method, hives I think will not make the winter. I also add drawn out comb to hives that I started earlier in the year so they do not have to work to draw out comb when there is no nectar flow. It is difficult to get them to draw out comb this time of year. The concept is to provide them room to raise brood that will be the overwintering bees and room to pack in the winter honey supply.

Robbing is an issue right now. I have entrance reducers in place and only place comb I want them to rob out after extracting a long way from any hive. Sometimes placing these combs near hives includes robbing activity on the hives themselves. Surprisingly, there has not been the yellow jacket robbing that we saw last year at this time (yet).

Thanks. See you September 20th

Dave Allen

Follow-up From Last Month's Meeting:

For those of you who may have missed last month's meeting, Tom and Fran put together a synopsis of their presentation. Due to the length of the document it will be located on our website under "Resources".

GCBA 2016 Board Members:

President:	Dave Allen
Vice-President:	Dave Foubert
Secretary:	
Treasurer:	Tom Davidson
Communications:	Terry Lieberman-Smith
Webmaster:	Dan O'Callaghan
At-Large:	Fran Davidson, Jeannie Doe, Joe Valentour
Past President	Dan O'Callaghan

What's Bloomin'



Nectar Sources: True Clovers, Motherwort, Yellow Sweet Clover, Honeysuckles, White Sweet Clover, Milkweeds, Monardas, Loosestrife, Vetches, Mountain Mints

Nectar and Pollen: Roses, Purple Coneflower, Rudbeckias, Bachelor Buttons, Thistles, Helianthus (Sunflowers), Ironweed, Eupatorium (Joe-Pye weed, Bonesets), Asters, Goldenrod, Sedum

Pollen: Ox-Eye, Garden Asters

Treasurer's Report

Checking balance 1 Sept	\$4268.48
Check #1097 Name cards	(6.00)
Dues deposit	<u>15.00</u>
Ck Balance 3 Sept 2016	\$4277.48
Cash on hand	<u>92.01</u>
Total Assets	\$4369.49

Basic Buzz in the Beeyard

September (really?)

- Check colonies for disease and monitor/treat for mites
- Provide supers for fall goldenrod and aster flow
- Requeen Colonies
- Unite weak colonies

October

- Prepare colonies for winter
- Begin fall feeding with heavy syrup, if needed
- Unite weak colonies with stronger colonies
- Put on entrance reducers to keep out vermin



OSBA Fall Conference— *Bee There!* November 5, 2016

This year's OSBA Fall Conference at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City OH will be another record-setting event. Guest speakers include:

Jamie Ellis

Steve Repasky

Reed Johnson

Alex Zomchek

Christie Welch

And others....

Check out our website for the growing list of vendors. Current list includes Bee-Pothecary, Better-bee, Brushy Mountain Bee Supply Dadant, Blue Sky Bee Supply, Kelley Bee Supply, Mann Lake, and Mel Disselkoen. If you pre-order your beekeeping supplies, these vendors will bring them to the conference and you will save on shipping and handling.

Get your honey entries ready for our every popular Honey Judging Contest, judged by Jim Thompson. See Fall Registration packet for details..

Reed Johnson's students will be testing bees for varroa. See registration for details.

For more information, visit www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org

Honey Bee News:

What happens after spraying for Zika: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2016/09/01/like-its-been-nuked-millions-of-bees-dead-after-south-carolina-sprays-for-zika-mosquitoes/?tid=sm_fb

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/29/science/neonicotinoid-insecticide-bee-sperm.html>

<http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-buzz-umass-amherst-research-finds-untreated-lawns-yield-unexpectedly-rich-bee-species-mix/>

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honey should each be consolidated by moving frames to the desired location. Then excess boxes can be removed and stored. Normally bees should be wintered in no more than two or three deeps or three or four mediums. The top box of each configuration should be entirely honey. With adequate honey properly located the bees should be ready to winter successfully.

Seasonal Resource Page

Robber Screens:

- <http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/files/147611.pdf>
- <http://www.beeworks.com/forum/viewtopic.php?p=40>
- <http://cookevillebeekeepers.com/06/how-to-make-a-simple-robber-screen>

Not Sure What Robbing Looks Like?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vOfn2Nj4JY>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pT9bofzyZa0>

Yellow Jacket Traps....lots of choices:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiTggZSLjpE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqMBIEqOI2I>
- <http://tipnut.com/wasp-trap/> lots of choices

Getting ready for winter:

Home-Made version of Honey Bee Healthy (adapted from Beesource)

5 cups water
2 ½ pounds of sugar
15 drops spearmint oil
15 drops lemongrass oil

Heat the water to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in the sugar until dissolved. Once the sugar water has cooled, add the essential oils. Stir until everything is evenly distributed.

This solution should have a strong scent and not be left open around bees.

Cool completely before using.

I store this concentrate in the fridge -label it so that your family doesn't drink it!!

Approx. dosage: 1 tsp per quart of 1:1 sugar syrup for feeding

Marshmallow Bee Fondant

3 bags (10.5 oz) marshmallows
½ c. water
4 pounds confectioners sugar

Put marshmallows in a microwave safe bowl. Bowl needs to be large because marshmallows will puff up and cause a mess if they overflow. Pour water over marshmallows. Microwave, 20 seconds at a time, until melted.

Carefully remove from microwave. Stir in powdered sugar. Once it is difficult to stir, turn out on cutting board or countertop that has been dusted with confectioner's sugar. Knead in remaining sugar.

Coat the fondant with a light layer of shortening to help keep it moist. Wrap in several layers of plastic wrap.

Look for sales of marshmallows at the end of the cookout season!

Stop by and Visit the GCBA Table at.....

GCBA has been invited to have an information and sales table at the Beavercreek Historical Society's Heritage Day at Wartinger Park, 3080 Kemp Road, on Saturday, September 17th. Beavercreek Heritage Day is a free event for the entire family.

Stop by, visit, and while you are enjoying the event, purchase some plants from our friends the Greene County Master Beekeepers. The plant sale is from 9 a.m.—noon.

Let's help support the gardeners who supply nutrition for our honey bees!

