



The Skep

April 2020

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

What a difference a month makes.....

We are definitely in uncharted territories on the human side but our bees don't know the hectic times we are having. New packages are arriving and we still need to take care of our hives. That may be the easiest for us all.

As far as club business, the board is working on several options to keep us joined and informed. The Facebook page has been updated to include better group postings so take advantage, share, and keep learning. Thanks to Bruce and Michele for the updates.

The current outlook to resume regular meetings probably won't happen until June at the earliest. We will keep you informed as we learn more. The board is discussing the possibility of a web based meeting as an alternative. We have heard from the Canfield Fair Board to keep planning (with fingers crossed) that this will pass by fair time.

The biggest thing we need is to update the swarm list. We have included the current list, so please email me if your information needs to be changed. We are already getting some calls and it appears the swarm season may be early this year. The swarm list is also available on the website.

Take care and practice social distancing.

Ralph

April Meeting Information:

Meeting Date: Cancelled,
~~Monthly Membership Meeting~~
~~and Luncheon~~

~~Austintown Senior Center~~
~~100 Westchester Drive~~
~~Suite 108~~
~~Austintown, Ohio 44515~~

~~Potluck Lunch at 1 pm and~~
~~Membership meeting at 2 pm~~

~~Effective May 2019 you no~~
~~longer need to bring your own~~
~~tableware; Plates, Cups,~~
~~Silverware etc. These will be~~
~~provided by the club.~~

Guest Speaker:

Next Meeting: To be determined



Meeting Highlights:

Due to the corona virus pandemic last month's meeting was cancelled. The April meeting has been cancelled as well.

This Month/Next Month in Beekeeping:

April

Inspect your bee hives and continue feeding if food stores are low and the weather does not permit them to collect enough nectar and pollen. Watch the queen's laying pattern. If the pattern is sparse and spotty, now would be the time to replace her. If you have multiple hives and one or more of them are struggling this is an excellent time to combine hives.

Note this is the start of Swarm Season.

May

May comes to us from an old calendar published by Master Beekeeper David Burns in 2007. You can read the whole calendar here: <http://basicbeekeeping.blogspot.com/2007/12/beekeepers-calendar-of-important-events.html>. Bees are in full operation now that it is May. You can stop feeding strong hives now because they are bringing in lots of nectar and pollen. You should put on honey supers in May. Put on as many as you'd like. The hive is expanding rapidly. The brood chambers are filling up fast and becoming crowded and congested.

And with congestion comes swarming. Mr. Burns has an excellent article on Swarm Capture and Prevention:

<http://basicbeekeeping.blogspot.com/2007/11/lesson-fourteen-swarm-capture.html>

Bees in the News:

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/03/how-undertaker-bees-recognize-dead-comrades>

This article takes an interesting look into how undertaker bees recognize dead bees in the hive. They examined two variables. Body temperature and smell. Dead bees give off less compounds called cuticular hydrocarbons (CHCs) than living bees. The research suggests that it's not the temperature, but the absence of these CHC emissions that undertakers use to diagnose death. However, they didn't examine how the bees can taste with their feet and more studies need to be done.

<https://www.mndaily.com/article/2020/03/n-honeybees-dying-from-deformed-wing-virus-research-finds>

Universities have been collaborating to research Deformed Wing Virus (DWV). DWV, which is transferred to bees via Varroa mites, is affecting more than just the bees that emerge with deformed wings. Even the adult bees can get this virus and exhibit no deformed wings. It is affecting their brains and their behavior, leading to colony decline. The virus makes it so the bees are acting older than they are and foraging earlier. This is leading to there being less nurse bees and bees to carry out other tasks in the colony. The foragers that have DWV are spreading the virus to other colonies. The positive outcome of this research is that the more they are learning about DWV, the closer we will be to finding a solution to this honey bee virus.

<https://www.wabe.org/why-warm-winters-like-were-having-are-a-problem-for-honey-bees/>

The warmer winter that we experienced this year is not necessarily a good thing for the honey bees. While they aren't having to survive the extreme cold temperatures, it is making it so they use up their stores of honey faster. The warmer weather is also making them come out to forage earlier than normal and there are no sources of nectar available. This can cause the colony to starve if they go through their stores of honey. It is also making it so early foragers are aging faster trying to find early pollen and nectar. Some beekeepers are adjusting and harvesting less honey so they can leave the bees more for the winter. Other beekeepers are keeping bees in cold storage to simulate a normal winter.

Julie Bartolone

Members Corner:

March's meeting was to feature Julie Bartolone and a discussion about Pollinators Plants.

Here is a list of websites that cover the topic:

<https://xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/pollinator-plants-great-lakes-region>

<https://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/EasternBroadleaf.Oceanic.rx18.pdf>

<https://thehoneybeeconservancy.org/plant-a-bee-garden/>

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/?cid=NRCS143_022326

Dorothy Sabol sent this picture of a honey bee with full pollen sacs.



Monthly Honey Recipe:

VANILLA HONEY SALTED CARAMEL POPCORN

This recipe comes from CMCBA members MIKE and DIANA FERRERI. You can store the caramel corn for up to 2 weeks at room temperature in an airtight container, or re-sealable bag, unless of course you decide to eat it all first! Hard to stop eating once you start.



Happy Beekeeping Friends!

Ingredients:

2 sticks unsalted butter (1 cup)

2 cups brown sugar

½ cup honey

1 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

½ teaspoon baking soda

6 quarts freshly popped popcorn (unsalted and no butter, air popped preferred). Divide popcorn into two bowls after popped.

1 ½ teaspoons large sea salt flakes

Preheat oven to 250 degrees F.

Set out 2 large cookie sheets with an edge (jelly roll pans).

Directions:

Heat butter, honey, and brown sugar over medium heat in deep sauce pot, stirring until melted.

Raise heat and let boil for 4 minutes.

Remove from heat immediately add the Vanilla, baking soda, and salt. The mixture will bubble rapidly, so stir carefully but quickly. Pour half the mixture over half the popcorn in the bowl, stirring well to coat.

Add the other half of the popcorn in the bowl and pour remaining caramel sauce over the popcorn stirring again.

Spread the popcorn mixture evenly in the two pans. Don't worry if all the popcorn didn't get coated. While baking the sauce will melt again and stirring will help get it all coated.

Place pans in the oven and bake for one hour. Every 15 minutes stir well to help get all the popcorn coated.

Remove after an hour and stir again, as it cools the popcorn will stick together, so continue to stir and break up the larger pieces into smaller ones.

References

Dannyphoto80. "Bear and bee." Dreamstime. 2000-2020. <https://www.dreamstime.com/stock-illustration-bear-bee-illustration-eating-popcorn-image46036134>.

Shanna. "Vanilla Honey Salted Caramel Popcorn." Pineapple and Coconut. Solo Pine. 2020. Adapted from *All Recipes*. <https://www.pineappleandcoconut.com/recipes/vanilla-honey-salted-caramel-popcorn/>

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