



The Skep

April 2022

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

Hello Fellow Beekeepers,

By now everybody has been in their bees, by feeding the existing hives, or installing packages of bees. Watching them do their work bringing nectar and pollen back to the hive.

Make sure you have extra boxes to add for the next step. Honey supers or deeps for the queen to allow more room.

This month we will learn about catching swarms and how to make splits. This way they do not swarm out by putting them in another box.

-Bruce D.

April Meeting Information:

Meeting Date: 4/24/2022,
Monthly Membership Meeting and
Luncheon

[Austintown Senior Center](#)
[100 Westchester Drive](#)
[Suite 110](#)
[Austintown, Ohio 44515](#)

Potluck Lunch at 1 pm
Membership meeting at 2 pm

Guest Speaker: Surprise!

Next Meeting: 5/15/2022



Meeting Highlights:

- New members and announcements
- Cici, Dave and Lorie discussed Wooster
- Cici discussed installation of new bees to hive.
- Seed packets were given away to promote this year's theme, "If you plant it they will come"
- Inventory completed and budget reviewed for club products, equipment
- CiCi Sweeney discussed swarm prevention
- Unveiling of library bookshelves
- Fair will have educational games and prizes for kids.

This Month/Next Month in Beekeeping:

April: Bees have arrived from orders

Install packaged bees

Strengthen hives with queenless packages

Cut out old/bad brood comb

Equalize colony, reverse boxes

May: Check for queen cells and brood diseases

Manipulate hives for swarm prevention and make splits

Replace poor brood frames and add honey supers as needed

Provide ventilation and afternoon shade

Announcements:

- Lotion Bars will be presented in a tin at the Fair to promote sales
- Start thinking what you will need for the fair, supplies and entries.
- Jars and other supplies may be purchased through the club at cost.
- Looking for members to set up and teardown for meetings
- The Niles Artisan Farmers Market is seeking beekeepers to sell products on Sundays from June-October
- The swarm and mentors list will be sent out on May 1.
- Shirts: Color is sport grey for both Golf style and t-shirts.
 - T-shirts logo on front only, XL and smaller are \$10.00 XXL and greater \$2.00 more per size increment.
 - Golf shirts XL and smaller are \$15.00 XXL and greater \$2.00 more per size increment.
 - July meeting is the deadline for order and payment.

Comb Honey Basics:

Swarm prevention is often discussed in beekeeping. For the purposes of building your comb honey it can be a critical step in the process that will allow your set up to produce good yields. We discussed that overwintered hives are more likely to swarm unless you change your queens. Catching swarms may propose an advantage due to the nature of breaking the cycle for the varroa mite cycle because of the limited brood production. However, in many cases it is difficult to capture these swarms as they tend to be out of reach, or we miss the opportunity altogether.

To reduce swarming, beekeepers should look for swarm cells. The cells are generally started 2-3 days before a hive swarms and may swarm just as the first cell is being capped. An inspection is the sure way of finding swarm cells, however a faster method is to look at the bottom bars of the frames as at least a few cells will be found on these. Do the same with each box. This needs to be done every 4-5 days during prime swarm season. This method will not be practical if you have more than 10 hives.

If swarm cells are discovered, a swarm may be prevented by the following method:

1. Find the queen and put her and the frame she is on into a box on the bottom board (or nuc box) immediately adjacent to her original hive with the entrance facing the opposite direction.
2. Provide her with two-three frames of brood and attending bees. Queen cells on these frames must be destroyed, but it is not necessary to do.
3. Leave all remaining brood in original box but reduce the number of queen cells to no more than three.

Do not worry about how many bees are in each box. However, the box with the queen must have enough bees to cover the frames with the brood. For this reason, it is important to shake some bees into the new hive. All the forager bees will retreat to the original hive, but the nurse bees will remain in the new hive. The new box will not swarm as it is too weak without the foragers and the old hive remains because it is not queenright. Most will keep this set up until fall and then correct the positioning of the hive. Usually there will be plenty of honey for the winter and the box that may have swarmed will produce a nice surplus.

Comb Honey Basics: cont

If you see swarm cells, it is advised to take every brood frame out of the hive and gently shake or brush 90% of the bees off and destroy the swarm cells. Check every week on the same day and look for swarm cells from this point forward. If one is discovered repeat the process and mark the hive with a crayon. If this process is continued into the fourth week they are most likely going to swarm, and it is best to let them do it. If this happens on your comb honey hive it may be a good trade off creating a new hive rather than having the comb honey.



The Library Corner:

A friendly reminder to bring back or drop off your borrowed club library books to the April meeting. As we only have one copy of each book, these borrowed materials need to be returned to give others the chance to have helpful information there seeking.

-Dorothy Sabol.

Thank you Aj and Mike for the books that were donated.



PETROLEUM JELLY RECIPE

WITH PEOPLE WANTING TO BECOME MORE SELF SUFFICIENT, THIS RECIPE OFFERS A WAY. EASY TO MAKE AND IS AN INGREDIENT OF MANY OTHER PRODUCTS. IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO STAY AWAY FROM PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, THEN YOU CAN SUBSTITUTE A NATURAL OIL, SUCH AS GRAPESEED OIL OR SWEET ALMOND OIL TO MAKE AN "UN-PETROLEUM "JELLY.



Picture by bearhughoney.com

INGREDIENTS:

1 OUNCE (weight) BEESWAX

½ CUP BABY OIL OR FOOD GRADE MINERAL OIL

DIRECTIONS:

Melt the ingredients in a microwave or over low heat in a double boiler.

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Remove the mixture from the heat and stir.

Pour into a clean glass jelly jar, stir until cools.

Put lid on jar.

** you can turn this idea into a great gift**

2022 Officers

President	Bruce Deafenbaugh	330-565-5414
Vice President	Mike Klem	330-506-7762
Secretary	Kara Swogger	724-504-4312
Treasurer	Don Kovach	330-272-3711
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