



The Skep

September 2020

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

As I write this I should be working the fair booth.....

Not only is it disappointing that we are not at the fair, it seems kind of surreal imagining what we would be doing right now.

At this time we do not foresee having a year-end banquet as group meetings are still not allowed per state guidelines. We are starting to plan a webinar for October with the OSBA Traveling Speaker Program. They are now offering this to various clubs.

Joe Heider told me when we chatted about the speaker program that his position as regional OSBA director was up for election. If anyone is interested, please contact Joe or myself.

Also, we do have the treasurer and one board member position for election this year. The board is discussing ways to have the election. More importantly, we need volunteers to serve. Please contact Bill Traynor or Julie Bartolone if you are interested.

Miss all of you and stay healthy. Let's look for a return to normal in January.

Ralph Rupert.

September Meeting Information:

Meeting Date: Cancelled,

Meeting Highlights:

There was no September Meeting

This Month/Next Month in Beekeeping:

September

The bees will still be working fall flowers, but in most states the amount of honey produced in September will be minimal. The days are still warm enough to allow the bees time to gather more last minute nectar prior to the first major hard freeze or frost which will kill the flowers. September is to some the start of the beekeeper's year! What you do in September will determine how well your bees do next year and how well they overwinter. Here are some suggestions to overwinter:

- Consider re-queening: You don't have to, if your queen has done well. But it is advisable to re-queen in September. If you can afford to re-queen your hive each year, it would be best to do so in September. A new queen means a much younger queen who has stronger pheromones and who will be more apt to lay eggs more efficiently in the spring.
- Take off all your supers: Like most things there is some give and take here. Evaluate the capped honey in the brood boxes before removing the supers. You want to reduce the interior space the bees need to heat in the winter, but you also need to have enough food for all the bees all winter long.
- Weigh your hives: When in doubt bring out a scale to figure out if there is enough honey in the hives. Keep in mind though it's not all about weight. It's also about placement. A hive can still starve out in the late winter with full frames of honey in the hive that they could not get to in the cold.

Lastly stay out of your hive as soon as you finish your hive work. The bees will seal the hive with propolis. This will cut down on the cold draft in winter. It should be ok to remove the top and inner cover to replenish food stores but leave the boxes alone.

October

<http://basicbeekeeping.blogspot.com/2007/12/beekeepers-calendar-of-important-events.html>

There are less reasons for the bees to leave the hive. Flying is cut way down. The queen is laying very few eggs. They are now shifting to winter mode.

Prepare your hives for winter. A wind break should be considered. Entrance cleats should be placed in the front opening to restrict mice from entering the hive. A word about bees and winter. A large hive will not die from cold weather. They stay warm by clustering in the hive. They keep each other warm. The temperature in the hive is only warm within the cluster. They do not warm the entire inside of their hive, only the cluster. They can survive extreme cold weather. But, moisture can develop within the hive as bees do give off moisture like we do. If this moisture gathers above them, it can drip onto the cluster. This is what can kill bees during the winter. They are much like us. We can be cold and get by, but we cannot stay alive long if we become wet and cold. Bees can get wet in the summer and it is not a problem. But you must prevent your hive from becoming cold and wet from condensation developing within the hive.

Here's how we do it. We use screen bottom boards, fully opened. We do not restrict or cover our bottom boards for winter. Nor do we place any gaps near the top cover. The open screen bottom board allows enough ventilation within the hive to alleviate moisture build up. We do not wrap for winter, although many do. It has been shown to slightly help. Black roofing paper works great. We have too many hives to wrap. Keep in mind that by wrapping your hive, you might be increasing the chance for condensation to collect within the hive.

Winter winds can be strong, so place a heavy concrete blocks on your hives.

Educational Opportunities:

Bees in the News:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.abc.net.au/article/12618064>

Scientists at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research in Australia have discovered that a molecule in bee venom, called milittin, is highly effective in killing aggressive breast cancer cells. The bee venom in combination with chemotherapy has promising results but more research needs to be done.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/blue-bee-feared-be-extinct-found-florida-180974957/>

First discovered only ten years ago, the rare blue calamintha bee (*Osmia calaminthae*) was feared to be extinct. Chase Kimmel of Florida Museum of Natural History recently spotted it in central Florida. The rare blue bee is only active for a short period in the spring and only found in small specialized scrub habitats. They are still researching this species, why it so rare and trying to protect it under the Endangered Species Act.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/phys.org/news/2020-08-honeybees-nectar.amp>

Researchers at Sun Yat-Sen University, Kiel University, and the University of Washington have found that honey bees use two methods for collecting nectar depending on the viscosity. This allows honey bees to feed on a wide variety of flowers with different nectars. Make sure to check out the video in the article that shows this difference in the two methods using a high speed camera.

Members Corner:

Last month we stopped over at Weller Bee Supply. The owner told us they went out on a swarm call earlier this year. The call was for bees that were in a barrel on a business' front porch. It was easier to take the whole barrel, so that's what they did. It is now sitting under the pine tree at their store.



Monthly Honey Recipe:

HONEY COUGH DROPS

Let's get ready for the fall and winter months ahead with this month's recipe, which is shared by CMCBA member LAURIE COY. Laurie says, "this is an easy recipe that would make cute little gifts, and great to have on hand."



Recipe from Mama Bear (Pinterest)

Laurie Coy pictures

Ingredients

½ teaspoon of ginger or ¼ inch of grated ginger

5 Tablespoons of honey

½ teaspoon of lemon juice

2 teaspoons coconut oil

A whisk

Silicone molds work best

Cooking spray

Directions:

1. Put all the ingredients in a saucepan. Set the stove on medium heat and stir. *NOTICE the light color of the sauce, when it turns a shade darker, you'll be done.
2. Set the timer for 15 second intervals, stirring constantly. When the timer goes off, remove pan from the heat and use a whisk to stir to remove bubbles.
3. Keep stirring while on the heat and every 15 seconds repeat by removing the sauce from the heat to whisk out the bubbles. * "I repeated this for 2 minutes or until a color change."
4. Remove from heat and use a spoon to fill tiny molds that have been pre-sprayed. Make sure the mold is not real full. Place in freezer to harden. I put my drops in foil and place the individual drops into a jar.

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