



The Skep

February 2019

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

Yes it is winter in northeast Ohio – if you don't like today's weather just wait, tomorrow will be different and probably worse. However, with the 50 degrees the last couple of days, it was a pleasure to see my bees in full activity. Even so, it is time to order any packets of bees.

Our first meeting of the year was cancelled last month due to that unpredictable weather. We will try again to feature three break-out sessions during the speaker time titled "Don't BEE Idle this winter". We will have sessions on swarm box construction, hardware maintenance, and wax processing.

Just as a reminder, please pay your annual membership dues by the end of March. These dues help us with the month to month operation of the club, so it's important to remember to keep current. Please see our new treasurer, Bill Traynor, to make your payment.

Also don't forget registration for the big Tri-County Spring Workshop in Wooster, it will begin soon. The workshop starts the evening of Friday March 1st through Saturday March 2nd. This is an excellent educational forum for beekeepers of all levels.

Vice-President
Ralph Rupert

February Meeting Information:

Meeting Date: 02/17/2019,
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

As a Reminder: Please bring
your own tableware; Plates,
Cups, Silverware etc.

Guest Speaker:
Breakout sessions

Next Meeting: 03/17/2019



Meeting Highlights

The monthly meeting for January was cancelled due to weather concerns.

This Month/Next Month in Beekeeping:

February

The cluster is slowing making its way up the hive. Continue feeding the bees as this is a critical time for them. If they did not have enough stores they will starve. Now is a good time to start working on your equipment doing repairs, cleaning, disinfecting dead outs and assembling new hardware.

March

March is the month that bees may starve out if they don't have enough stores. It should be warm enough to install top feeders and feed 1:1 sugar water. Continue with feeding dry pollen or pollen patties. The bees will start foraging and the Queen should start laying more eggs. Using your best judgement on the weather you can do hive inspections. Time to put the final push assembling new woodenware this year's packages will be here in April and May.

Educational Opportunities:

Tri County Beekeepers Association 2019 Spring Workshop

The 41st Annual TCBA Spring Beekeepers Workshop will be March 1-2, 2019

Fisher Auditorium
1680 Madison Ave
Wooster, Oh 44691

Registration information can be found at their website

<https://www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register>

There are a number of Beginning Beekeepers Courses listed on OSBA.

<http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/events/category/beekeeping-classes/>

Members Corner:



The date is February 3rd 2019 Sunday and it's slightly over 50 degrees at 10:30 am, time to peek in on the bees and see how they are doing this winter. Just a day prior in the morning we had stopped over to look at our hives. On one of our 5 hives there were bees flying in and out, it was sunny but only 15 degrees. Now a day later I pulled in and parked and the carnage was saddening. There were hundreds of bees on the snow dead. The previous days cleansing flights had not ended well for a lot of them.

From the initial sighting you can see where the snow is heavily stained with their fecal matter. The entrance to the hive is also heavily stained. From the research I conducted later in the week it appears that this hive is or might be contaminated with Nosema Disease. The only way to truly tell is to send a sample of bees out for diagnostics, which appears to be a task for next warm day.

This was our strongest hive at the end of last year and the one I most



felt had the best chance to make it through the winter. Of course I thought that last year with both of our hives (what do I know).

My original goal this day was to put winter patties on each hive. That goal changed when I opened my second hive and found the bees on top of the inner cover. It's February 3rd and this hive appears to be out of honey stores. At least that is how I interpret their position. I decided to run to the store and grab a couple of bags of sugar. Not knowing exactly what to do, I guessed as best I could. I had cut a deep box in



two a year ago to make a spacer. I placed the spacer on top of the inner cover and put the bottom part of a gallon water jug on the inner cover. I put a small hole in the side of the container and filled it with sugar. Two of our other hives were in a similar situation. The bees were at the very top of the hive so I did the best I could to give them dry sugar and as much winter patties as I could get into the hives.

On the positive side all 5 of the hives have bees. As I was feeding they started coming out of all of the hives. The hope is they all make it to spring.

Monthly Honey Recipe:

Honey-Orange Winter Vegetable Medley



[https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/honey-orange-winter-vegetable-medley/? cmp=stf](https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/honey-orange-winter-vegetable-medley/?cmp=stf)

Prep time 30 minutes

Bake time 1 hour

Servers 9

3 cups fresh baby carrots
2 cups cubed red potatoes
2 cups pearl onions, peeled
2 cups cubed peeled sweet potatoes
3/4 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
1/2 cup orange marmalade
1/4 cup honey
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1-1/2 teaspoons poultry seasoning
3/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 teaspoon pepper
3 tablespoons butter, cubed

Directions

- Preheat oven to 375°. Place the vegetables in a greased shallow 3-qt. baking dish or 13x9-in. baking pan. In a small bowl, combine broth, marmalade, honey, lemon juice and seasonings. Pour over vegetables and toss to coat. Dot with butter.
- Cover and bake 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 30-40 minutes longer or until vegetables are tender.

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