

Susquehanna Beekeeper's Association

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President's Ramblings



A beekeeping colleague once told me, "If I come away with just one new idea from a meeting, then that time was well spent". Hearing Lloyd Snyder's insights regarding early packages, queen quality, and timing made October's meeting completely worthwhile. Re-queening packaged bees in late May or early June may be a key piece to avoid a laying worker later in the year.

past year so we could surely use another member to step forward and become our next Officer Intern.



Everyone is invited to the SBA's December 10th Potluck Christmas party. We're posting a 6:30 start at the Fallston United Methodist Church on Route 152. If you have not been to a recent meeting, the accommodations are very nice.

The swarm that I caught on Labor Day has grown considerably in size since early September. But it's time to close up all of the hives and hope the bees' (as well as my own) preparations are sufficient to get them through whatever the coming winter has in store.



How concerned or informed are our elected representatives in Annapolis regarding the ill effects of neonicotinoids on honeybees? Bonnie Raindrop will be speaking at the November 12th (7 pm) SBA meeting regarding current legislative initiatives. Come and find out the latest buzz! Also, the election of 2015 SBA Board Members will take place at this meeting. Current nominees include: Harry Dutcher for President, Pam Kryglik for VP, Rita Kryglik for Secretary, and John Kovac for Treasurer. Pam has served as our "Officer Intern" this

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Dennis Hertzog	President
Harry Dutcher	Vice President
Claudia Hertzog	Secretary
John Kovac	Treasurer
Pam Kryglik	Officer Intern
Aileen Richards	Newsletter

Notes from the Apiary

BY ROBERT CROUSE



Nothing new here at Dogwood Apiary. Three hives and three two story nucs are doing fine. Unlike last year, there were very little brood in the frames I found in the top boxes, so I did not move frames down this year. I restarted feeding, now with 2:1 syrup, and expect the bees will fill the cells as soon as the brood emerges. I want all stores to be above the bees going into the cluster season. Feeding is going on as planned; I will top off the feeding in late October if needed. I will just end with the following reminders.

While some may view this month as the end of the beekeeping year, in fact it is the beginning of the 2015 season. If you don't prepare and treat your bees properly now for the winter months you won't have bees next spring capable of a good harvest.

Before feeding I always go through the hive and clean out burr comb and excess propolis. However, I

have learned to leave some burr comb on the bottom of the top box frames. This will help the bees move up during cold weather. I check out the brood, and if necessary I will put all brood into one deep as I will place the brood box on the bottom board with the other box on top with the honey and empty frames. Now when I feed the bees all of the syrup will be above the bees when they move up during the winter.

I like to use hive top feeders, especially at this time of year, to prevent robbing and keep the yellow jackets away from the hive entrances. I keep track of the amount of syrup each hive gets as I want about 60 pounds of stores for each hive. Now all I will have to do is install hive entrance reducers then I will be done for this year.

Don't forget to properly store your empty frames. You don't want to let wax moths ruin the hard work your bees did in drawing that wax. I like the wax moth drawer that Brushy Mountain sells for moth control.

Claudia's Corner

"Bees do have a smell, you know, and if they don't they should, for their feet are dusted with spices from a million flowers."

- Ray Bradbury, *Dandelion Wine*

Monsanto “Improved” Bee to Combat Neonicotinoids

BY JOHN KOVAC

As everyone knows, there has been a widespread loss of bees. Over the last 10 years the annual loss has been estimated at 30%. In 2012–2013, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) was blamed for the loss of about half of the US honeybee hives, far more than the 33% losses observed on average over previous years. CCD has wiped out some 10 million bee hives worth \$2 billion over the past six years.

Experts initially point towards poor nutrition, pesticides, genetically modified (GM) crops, parasites and pathogens, lack of genetic biodiversity and climate change as the cause. New research strengthens the link of pesticides, especially neonicotinoids, used on crops to colony collapse disorder in honeybees. These neonicotinoids are absorbed into plant tissue and can be present in pollen and nectar, making them toxic to pollinators.

It has been concluded that sub-lethal exposure to neonicotinoids is likely the main culprit for the occurrence of CCD in the Bulletin of Insectology. An



October 2013 study by Italian researchers demonstrated that neonicotinoids disrupt the innate immune systems of bees, making them susceptible to viral infections to which the bees are normally resistant.

Neonicotinoids is possibly the most widely used insecticide in the worldwide market. Almost 90% of the corn, soybeans and cotton grown in the US are coated with neonicotinoid systemic pesticides. It is applied to soil, seed, timber and animal pests as well as foliar treatments cereals crops, cotton, grain, legumes, potatoes, pome fruits, rice, turf and vegetables.

With scientific evidence that CCD is caused by neonicotinoids and its use is growing, what options are available? The first and most obvious solution is to reduce the use of neonicotinoids. Forty countries

ban GM food outright or have laws regulating GM food.

Monsanto has decided to take another approach. In 2011 they purchased the world's foremost and largest bee research organization call Beeologics LLC. It has been reported that patent number 457842149 has been approved for a pesticide-resistant “super” bee. If Monsanto's history of explosive growth in GMO seeds is any indication, a GMO version of *Apis Mellifera* will be coming soon.

**“CCD has wiped out
some 10 million bee
hives worth \$2
billion over the past
six years.”**

Treating Small Hive Beetle



Kevin Gross and Joe Lewis contributed the following, non-chemical recipe for dealing with Small Hive Beetle.

Ingredients:

Overripe, liquefied banana
Equal amount of apple

cider vinegar

16 oz vegetable oil

Materials:

Strainer
Discarded dish detergent bottle
Small Hive Beetle traps

Instructions:

Strain the banana, and add it to the dish detergent bottle. Add the apple cider vinegar and vegetable oil and mix well. Add about 1/3" to the bottom of each trap, shaking well before use.

Maryland State Beekeepers Meeting

"Ribbons and premiums are given to winners in apiary and honey cookery categories."

The Maryland State Beekeepers Association will hold their fall meeting and honey show on 15 Nov 2014 at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. Start

time is 0930. The web address is <http://mdbeekeepers.org/index.html>. Information on the 2014 meeting has not been posted yet. The meeting is open to both members and non-members. The

honey show is the last one of the year. Ribbons and premiums are given to winners in apiary and honey cookery categories. Contact Harry Dutcher for further info, (410) 734-9236, bspaboy@comcast.net.

SBA Potluck Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 10th

at the Fallston United Methodist Church

1509 Fallston Rd, Fallston MD 21047

6:30 PM start

Good Cheer and Good Conversation!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Nov 12 (Wednesday) - General SBA Meeting, 7 pm at Fallston United Methodist Church, 1509 Fallston Rd, Fallston, MD 21047 - 2015 SBA Officer Elections - Speaker: Bonnie Raindrop - "Bee-Friendly Legislation"
- Nov 22 (Saturday) – Intro to Beekeeping, 9-12, Rm. 166 Edgewood Hall, at HCC. Register through the HCC noncredit division. The course number is 45331. \$10 fee.
- Dec 10 (Wednesday) – SBA Potluck Holiday Party, 6:30 pm at Fallston United Methodist Church
- Jan 14 (Wednesday) – General SBA Meeting, 7 pm Fallston United Methodist Church – Speaker TBA
- Feb 11 (Wednesday) – General SBA Meeting, 7 pm Fallston United Methodist Church – Speaker: Cybil Preston, Late Winter Hive Management
- Feb-Mar Short Course through HCC. Dates TBA
- Mar 11 (Wednesday) – General SBA Meeting, 7 pm Fallston United Methodist Church – Speaker: David Papke, Early Spring Hive Management



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