

FCBA NEWS



Franklin County Beekeepers Association

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March

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Beginner Beekeeper Basic class:

Club Upcoming Events

Spring Meeting

May 28, 2020 - 6:30 - 9:00, Ag Heritage Bldg., 185
Franklin Farm Ln., Chambersburg, Room 7-8.

Speaker: Jim Bruckart, discussing the
requirements to honey entries in fair contest and
more.

We will be voting on the bylaw revision.

**Check the fcbapa.com calendar for
additional events**

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Our basic beekeeper class is now underway. The education committee did an excellent job of revamping the lessons to fix the PennState Extension "Beekeeping Basics" book used this year (book selection made by the committee). The committee consists of current FCBA members. A huge thanks to them for the hard work they have undertaken.

The instructors (members of the education committee) have been doing a great job. The class group is asking great questions, all questions are welcomed; if your question is not answered during the presentations, don't hesitate to ask, beekeepers typically love to talk about their bees.

MARCH AND THE BEEKEEPER:

Continue emergency feeding if needed, and place entrance or top feeders on the hive and feed 1:1 sugar water, one part sugar and one part water.

Inspect your hive! March will provide you with a few days when the temperature will rise to 50 degrees or higher. At this temperature you can look in the hive and pull out a few frames. Keep in mind that since there is not a heavy nectar flow, and since it is cooler, the bees might be a bit more aggressive. So wear protective gear.

March is a great month to start feeding a

small amount of pollen patties. Pollen patties truly do help jump start the hive. Not too much though, you don't want the bees to not be able to cover all of the brood if we get a cold snap.

The bottom board will probably be filled with dead, winter bees. They did their job, so play "Taps", salute them, and toss them in the yard for the mice and birds to enjoy. Serve any mice an eviction notice. You'll be able to assess how many of your colonies have died out over the winter. Clean out these boxes and freeze the comb if you can. This will prevent the spread of wax moths.



Message from club President

Many of you know I'm a fairly avid motorcycle rider and on my "business" card I have the statement "Look through the curve & enjoy the ride, especially in life". Curves are the changes, be it in direction or life. Many times we get so busy focusing on the curves that we forgot to look through the curve so we can see where we're going. Even in changes, we need to enjoy what we are doing ("the ride"). I'm hoping the curves ("changes") this organization is taking are an improvement. I would like to clarify that we are not making changes just to change things, our goal is improvement. Improvement is built on previous policies. I would like to give a shout out to **David &**

Randy King for the many improvements they made during their tenure which is the basis for much of what we are building upon.

Your board continues to work hard. We had yet another meeting that lasted 3 plus hours. We have a lot of fun at these meetings, but we stay on task trying to make smart decisions for the association.

One decision that was made is to become an affiliate of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association (PSBA). To be an affiliate we need 10 members of our association who are also members of the PSBA, have implemented bylaws, have elected officers and be not for profit. We meet those requirements so we are in the process of making that happen. PSBA is designed to work together with local clubs for the betterment of all involved. PSBA has a huge lobbying effort with the Pennsylvania legislature so being involved with the PSBA will allow us to at least have some foreknowledge of upcoming laws related to beekeeping. Should any local governments attempt to limit beekeeping, the PSBA will lobby against such ordinances.

Another topic at the board came from a member who contacted me with many questions. Some of these questions were rooted in misunderstanding & misinformation, but as with anything, there is an opportunity to evaluate and improve.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please reach out to one of your board members, we will do all we can to address these concerns.