

FCBA NEWS

Franklin County Beekeepers Association

franklincountybeekeeperspa@gmail.com <http://fcbapa.com> FB: Franklin County (PA) Beekeepers Assn.
August 2020 Volume 3 - Issue 7

Club Upcoming Scheduled Events

Do You Want To Be A Beekeeper

October 1st, 6:30 pm - Location will be announced on FCBA web site and Facebook page (Extension office currently unavailable)

Banquet

Canceled due to Covid-19, location & gathering complications

FCBA Officers

President: Steve Hill

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Vice President: Tim Weller

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Board: Steve Campbell

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Board: Mike Poe

brazilbuzz@gmail.com - 717-462-6281

Board: Jon Deardorff

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Treasurer: Georgia Townsend

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Secretary: Diane Small

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Digital Media Coordinator: Matt Allen

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About our upcoming meetings:

Due to Covid-19 regulations we still have to determine DYWTBAB details.

Fall Meeting Recap

The fall meeting was held at Townsend Apiary, there were 16 attendees.

The vote was taken on the bylaws amendments presented at February meeting. All amendments were passed unanimously at 7:15 pm.

Nate led us in a hive inspection.

The first find was a hive under a hive. A hive of bees had taken up residence between the blocks that one of the actual hives was sitting on. Their comb was attached to the screened bottom of the above hive. We got a lesson in how to retrieve the comb and attach to empty frames. We found the Queen and marked her.



During the inspection we found a few bees with mite riders.



We completed a sugar roll and an alcohol wash. We first did the sugar roll with a

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count of 16 mites. We then used the same bees to do an alcohol wash with an additional count of 15.

Nate did install mite away strips that Georgia had on hand to the one hive we inspected but as we ran out of daylight to complete the other hives, Georgia will install the strips in the remaining hives. Nate did say he typically uses oxalic dribble on his hives, but oxalic is for use on a little lighter count than we had found.

There was much discussion on mite treatment options.

Nate's best advice was to check the Honey Bee Health Coalition web site for help with treatment decisions, just as Craig Cella had suggested at the February meeting.

August in the Apiary

August is usually a hot and dry month with not much for the bees. The nectar flow has all but dried up. Bees have stopped drawing foundation because the nectar flow has stopped. The queen starts slowing down her egg laying rate, population will begin to decline.

Harvest the honey and return one wet super to the hive in case they find something to work and need to store more honey. This honey is often dark and has a richer, fuller flavor than the early honey.

Small hive beetle (SHB) populations peak in August. SHB are opportunistic predators who prey on weak hives that don't have enough bees to defend the hive. SHB will not cause a strong hive to crash. If there is a SHB problem the hive had a problem weeks or months earlier that the beekeeper didn't catch.

August is a good month to swap out equipment, replacing and repairing any equipment needing attention.

August Tips

- J **Remove Honey:** Prior to harvesting, it is important to ensure that your bees have enough honey stores before winter. Living in the Northeast, the bees live in two deeps. Those deeps should be filled with plenty of honey as the end of fall nears. This will be their food supply during the winter months.
- J **Check for mites:** assess the level of mite infestation with either the 24 hour mite drop from screen bottom board, the sugar roll or alcohol wash. Mite threshold depends on your hive strength. **(medicate if needed)**

For those of you that will be treating, take careful assessment of the type of treatment and appropriate temperatures for treatment. Some treatments will have to wait because August is too hot. Check out <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroatool/> for help on treatment decisions.

- J **Feed weak colonies (Pollen & Syrup):** Make plans for feeding in the fall and find sources of feed in case the fall flow does not come in.
- J **Re-Queen bad Queens:** Re-queening now is good if you can find a suitable queen.
- J **Equalize colonies:** The aim of equalizing bee colonies is to make weak and strong colonies in the apiary of a similar strength before winter. We do this by boosting a weak colony by giving it either some brood or extra bees from a strong colony.

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Offer Up

This month David Leduc is offering up, for donation to club only:

1 size small ventilated jacket, round hood

1 size 3x ventilated jacket, round hood

Both have no tears or holes used only a couple of seasons.

For more info contact Dave:

duc42@comcast.net 717-458-7232

from a historical building either before or during a roof replacement.

I was happy to hear the bylaws were accepted and that you all had a great meeting on the 6th (I felt good enough to be there, but it had been an extremely long day, plus I didn't feel I should be driving)

Club President Message

We have 2 functions remaining that were planned for the year, the Do You Want To Be A Beekeeper (DYWTBAB) & the Banquet. The DYWTBAB is typically held at the Extension Office, but that is currently closed and does not appear to be opening anytime soon. I feel this is an important event because it feeds the spring classes. The banquet will probably need to be canceled this year, but stay tuned, there's always hope. This event is well attended so we could easily infect many people. There are a few officers coming up for election so we'll have to address that (volunteers?, speak up). We, as your board, are making some tough decisions.

I've been "gainfully employed" of late with FCBA business. I've had a few mentoring calls and I would like to follow up with some of my past visits because I have not had an update on them.

We have some sugar so I'm getting occasional calls for that. I've got a couple people interested in having hives placed "somewhere" and I am assessing a cutout