

WARREN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
April 2009



MEETING NEWS

The next meeting will be Sunday, April 5th at 2:00 PM. The address of the new meeting place for future Warren County Beekeepers Association is:

Lebanon Presbyterian Church, 123 N. East St., Lebanon, OH 45036

Here are the instructions to find the correct entrance to the church:

There are 3 parking lots we can use in addition to on-street parking.

1. The largest is the farthest, across from the church on N. East St. in the County Parking Lot, 100+ parking spots.
2. The most convenient to the Handicap entrance: along Silver St. at N. East St., 20 parking spots.
3. The most convenient to the entrance we will mostly all use. Enter off E. Warren St. into the back of the church, 20 parking spots.

The entrance we will mostly all use: Walk to the rear of the church, on the alley there are 8 steps up to a double door. At the top of the eight steps, turn right onto the sidewalk and walk 15 feet to a door. Inside that door is a landing with steps both up and down. Go down, make 2 quick lefts and go down the hall to the big room at the end. Room 102

There is an alternative route that avoids all stairs. It is under a covered entrance on N. East St. Unfortunately, the doors are locked at our arrival time. So you have to send someone inside by the directions above to open the door from the inside, and you will have a longish, but level, walk North to the center of the building, and west to the elevator, and down to 102.

Ray Alley will do a presentation on Spring Management.

Carol Barton will provide refreshments.

DUES REMINDER: For those who wish to renew their membership and are unable to come to a meeting, dues can be sent to:

Gary Leever,
1322 W. Foster-Mainville Road
Maineville, OH 45039.

\$5.00 for a single or \$10.00 for family to WCBA.

ITEMS FOR SALE: Extractor and miscellaneous. Ernest Bicknell 937-271-9070 (Franklin)

BEEKEEPERS CALENDAR

APRIL AND THE BEES: Now the bees are almost fully operational. There will still be a few cold snaps, especially in early April, but by the last two weeks, the weather is good for bees to rapidly expand and to even start bringing in more and more nectar and pollen. The queen is laying well now. The hive is expanding.

APRIL AND THE BEEKEEPING: Keep feeding! Feeding helps the bees build up. No supers are on your hive yet, so their intake of sugar is not going into your honey product. You are just feeding to help the hive off to a great start. Keep the pollen patties on top too. Remove entrance reducers.

April can be cold and wet which means that your bees may have limited opportunities to fly out for food. So you must continue to inspect the hive to be sure they have enough food stores. Also, inspect your hive for any abnormalities. You want to see a solid brood laying pattern from your queen. If not, consider replacing her now!

Reverse your brood chambers! This is extremely important as it gives more space for the queen to lay. Simply take the top deep brood chamber and place it on the bottom board and place the one that was on the bottom on top.

If your bees are no longer taking the sugar feeding, discontinue, put supers on, as the bees will now begin to collect dandelion nectar and nectar from Maple trees, Locust trees and

other early Spring flowering plants and trees.

This is a great time to equalize your hives. You may have to combine weak hives with strong ones. Even though I know better, every year I seem to become too compassionate toward a struggling hive, and try to nurse them back to health. Last year, I successfully did just that with one hive, but another hive bit the dust in September after I nursed them along all year. It is usually not worth it. It is costly to spend too much time on a struggling hive. It takes money and time to re-queen the hive and to continue to work it. It would be far better to combine it to another hive if it is disease and pest free. After all, a weak hive is an invitation for pests and disease. Strong hives chase away pests and disease. So, your weak hive could spread disease to all your other hives. Don't take the chance. Keep your hives strong



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