

## WARREN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS FEBRUARY 2009

### MEETING NEWS



The next meeting will be Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00 PM at the Hopkinsville Community Center Building on Rt. 22/3 near the intersection of Rt. 22/3 and Rt. 48.

Pam Bishop will do the program on making salves, lip balms, etc. Thanks to Dale Ford for refreshments.

Dues are due starting in February. Dues are \$5.00 single, \$10.00 Family. Beekeeping School attendees are paid up for 2009.

### BEEKEEPERS CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY AND THE BEES:** Sunlight is becoming slightly longer and a few more warm days triggers the queen to start laying a few more eggs. Their cluster has worked its way upward into the top deep brood chamber. They are basically behaving the same as in January.

**FEBRUARY AND THE BEEKEEPER:** On a warm day, 50 degrees or more, you can open the top briefly and look in on the hive. Do not remove any frames, as this will chill the bees and the brood. Upon inspection you can assess if the colony still has enough stored honey for food. If not, you may want to consider emergency feeding options.

Emergency feeding is just that...an emergency. So do whatever it takes to get some sugar in the hive. Dry sugar will work but only if the bees have warm enough days to fly out for

water. There may not be many days warm enough in northern states for dry sugar feedings or hard candy feedings. Sometimes I have soaked sponges in heavy sugar water and jammed the sponge between the frames near the cluster. You can also place a plastic zip-lock bag full of sugar water directly over the cluster and poke a few holes on the top of the bag or make a slit in the bag. Do anything you can think of...after all it is better than letting the hive starve to death. Of course, if you have frames of honey available, that's the best way to feed them, but most of us have sold all our honey by now.

You might also consider placing a pollen patty on top of the upper deep box. This will really work well if the end of winter is extremely mild and there are many warm days. Pollen patties stimulate the laying of more eggs. However, if the weather turns cold again, then the bees may not be able to keep this early brood warm and fed. So it is a gamble this early for northern states.

Finally, if you did not order your package bees in January, you must do it now! And if you did not order your new equipment, hurry! You want all of your hive equipment ready by March.

## **BEEKEEPING SCHOOL**

There are some pretty good package installation videos on YouTube. Those who are coming to the third session at the Warren County Conservation Club to assemble their frames and boxes will need TiteBond II exterior wood glue or the equivalent.

The next Beekeeping School is Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 P.M. at the Warren County Conservation Club, 815 State Route 123 South, Lebanon, OH 45036. To get there, take the St. Rt. 123 exit off I-71 and go east 1 mile. The entrance to the club is on the right.

Attached is a letter we just received from Brushy Mountain.

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