

WARREN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
March 2009



MEETING NEWS

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

Kevin Kress will have the program demonstrating package installation. JoAnn Dickman will have refreshments.

REMINDER: Annual Dues are Due. Dues are \$5.00 single, \$10.00 Family.

BEEKEEPERS CALENDAR

MARCH AND THE BEES: If the hive was low on honey going into winter, then March is the month they may starve out. They have probably moved all the way up in the hive and their overall population is very low due to normal die-outs throughout the winter. The bees are going to be flying more in March, and they will find pollen even in northern states. The queen will start laying much more in March. The entire hive will begin to return to an almost normal operation now that winter is almost over. There will be cold snaps, but the bees will do fine as they begin to expand.

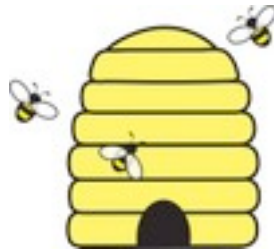
MARCH AND THE BEEKEEPER: Continue emergency feeding if needed, and place entrance or top feeders on the hive and feed 1:1 sugar water, one part sugar and one part water. Continue with pollen patty feedings and inspect your hive! March will provide you with a few days when the temperature will rise to 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. You may get stung more during these cold inspections than the rest of the year. So wear protective gear.

March is a great month to start feeding the pollen patties. If you don't make your own patties, you can buy them pre-made, which can be placed right in the hive. Pollen patties truly do jump-start the hive. I highly recommend that you place a pollen patty in your hives in March.

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 your 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.



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