

WARREN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

October 2009



MEETING NEWS

The next meeting will be October 4th at 2:00pm. The address of the meeting place for future Warren County Beekeepers Association is: Lebanon Presbyterian Church, 123 N. East St., Lebanon, OH 45036.

For this meeting Dave Parenti will give a demonstration and talk on top bar hives. Thanks to Jann Carrier for bringing refreshments.

BEEKEEPERS CALANDAR

OCTOBER AND THE BEES: There are less reasons for the bees to leave the hive. Flying is cut way down. The queen is laying very few eggs. They are now shifting to winter mode.

OCTOBER AND THE BEEKEEPER: Prepare your hives for winter. A windbreak should be considered. Entrance cleats should be placed in the front opening to restrict mice from entering the hive. A word about bees and winter. A large hive will not die from cold weather. They stay warm by clustering in the hive. They keep each other warm. The temperature in the hive is only warm within the cluster. They do not warm the entire inside of their hive, only the cluster. They can survive extreme cold weather. But, moisture can develop within the hive as bees do give off moisture like we do. If this moisture gathers above them, it can drip onto the cluster. This is what can kill bees during the winter. They are much like us. We can be cold and get by. But, we cannot stay alive long if we become wet and cold. Bees can get wet in the summer and it is not a problem. But you must prevent your hive from becoming cold and wet from condensation developing within the hive.

Here's how to do it. Many beekeepers are using screen bottom boards, fully opened. Others believe that using wide open screen bottom boards is allowing too much cold and wind directly into the cluster. Use your own judgment for this debate and go with what works in your area. Depending on what you do with the bottom of the hive you might even want to use a vented top cover to allow a small amount of moisture to escape out the top of the hive. There have been many various things used over the years to wrap the hive in the wintertime. Again Use what works in your area.

Winter winds can be strong, so place a heavy concrete blocks on your hives.

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