



LANCASTER COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY

Winter 2011/2012

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also

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Jim Pinkerton

Happy New Year to All!

2012!!! Can you believe that? Well, believe it or not it is here and it will be gone before we know it. Winter has been kind to us, so far, maybe making up for the floods and snow of this past fall season (fingers crossed).

Unlike last year our bees have had several warm days in December to get out and stretch a bit. I have even seen some pollen come in on a few of those days.

My goal for the LCBS this year is to give all of our members the skill and confidence to make their apiaries self sustaining. There is a lot of experience and knowledge within our membership that will be needed to reach this goal. My hope is that we can all work together and at some point in the near future, not have to rely on southern packages for our bees. Let's keep it local!

Looking forward to a Great year in Beekeeping.....Jim

Membership in the Lancaster County Beekeepers Society is \$10.00 per family per calendar year. Dues should be sent, by April, to Lori Stahl, Treasurer

Meetings for 2012

Feb 25

Basic Beekeeping Workshop
Sat. Feb 25
Open 8am .. Start 9am to 3 pm

March 13

Lancaster County Honey
Producer's Banquet
The Gathering Place
6:30pm

April 17, 6:30pm

Spring management
Location to be determined

May 15, 6:00pm

Apiary development
**Southeast Agricultural
Research & Extension Center**

June

Hive inspection
**Southeast Agricultural
Research & Extension Center**
Date and time TBD

August 18

**National Honey Bee
Awareness Day**

August 21

3rd Annual Picnic
At Strickler's Farm
Official invitations later

Sept 18, 7:00

Winter Management
Location TBD

Oct. 16, 7:00pm

"Honey Roundup" and
meeting at

Dutch Gold Honey

Protecting Your Hives from those Winter Winds!



Christina Seldomridge used a foil backed bubble wrap and attached it to her hives (above) with double stick tape. Very neat job.

I pushed my hives on each stand together, as close as possible (right). The first stand is 2 full hives on the ends and 4 nucs in the middle; each has an empty feeder box on top. One piece of tar paper was than stapled around three sides of the stand of hives. Two other stands were done the same way.



Leon Martin has hives with little protection from those winds. He has put up a wind break using blue foam board (below). Leon also has an empty feeder box on top of each hive to allow feeding of fondant on the inner cover (between the hive and the feeder box).

I always have plans of doing more, but like most of us, time just does not always allow for that. If your hives are exposed to the Northwest wind consider some protection. It can be as simple as a few bails of straw. Use what you have around and give your bees a break.....a wind break.



OK, so these don't have anything to do with bees (although they do infest other insects), but I find most beekeepers are interested in Nature and if you see one of these, you at least will know something about them. You can impress anyone who might listen with the fact that, as creepy as they are, they are not harmful to you or your pets and *they are right in your backyard*. That's not a necklace chain, that's the worm beside a quarter!

Horsehair Worm

From the Iowa State University of Science and Technology web site

The horsehair worms are interesting threadlike roundworms that resemble the "hair of a horse's tail or mane." These long, active worms may be observed during late summer or fall in streams and ponds, but are more commonly noticed in domestic water containers such as bird baths, swimming pools, water troughs, pet dishes, sinks, bathtubs and toilets. They may also be found on damp garden soil or vegetable plants after a rain.



Horsehair worms are no bigger around than kite string (1/25 to 1/16 inch wide) and very long (4 to 14 inches). Amazingly, the entire horsehair worm grew and developed as a parasite inside the body cavity of crickets and other large insects such as grasshoppers, katydids, beetles and cockroaches. This internal parasite of insects does not harm humans, animals or plants.

Parasitized crickets are thirsty and go to water to drink. While there the horsehair worm emerges from the insect's body and swims away in the water, an essential step in the life cycle of this internal parasite. Insects infected with horsehair worms die as a result of the parasite.

Horsehair worms are white when they first emerge from the host's body. They turn yellowish-tan to brownish-black after a short period of time. The worms often squirm and twist in the water, knotting themselves into a loose, ball-like shape, resembling the "Gordian Knot." Another name for horsehair worm is Gordian worm.

Horsehair worms resemble hairs from horses actively moving in the water. A superstition once surrounding this species held that the worms in water troughs and puddles had miraculously come to life from the long, thin hairs of a horse's mane or tail that had fallen into the water.

Horsehair worms are completely harmless. They do not infest people, livestock, pets or plants. They are beneficial because of the small percentage of crickets that they kill. No control measures are needed when this interesting worm is found.

Basic BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP



If you'd like to explore the art and craft of beekeeping, please join us for an informative and fun day of learning.

Topics Include

- * Honey Bee Biology
- * Honey Bee Health
- * Tools and Equipment
- * How and Where to Get Honey Bees
- * Choosing a Proper Location
- * Inspecting Hives

Venue: The Gathering Place
6 Pine St.
Mt. Joy, PA 17552

When: Saturday, February 25th
9:00am - 3:00pm
Doors open at 8:00am for registration

Cost: \$35 per person
\$25 each additional family member
Lunch will be provided

Please register by contacting either
Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911 or
Matt Libhart at workshop@lancasterbeekeepers.org

Presented
By



LANCASTER COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY

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Please understand that the payment is non-refundable if you are unable to attend the day of the workshop.
If this occurs we will make every effort to send you the workshop materials.

This year we are going to make a day of it and run the Basic Beekeeping Workshop from 9am to 3pm with a soup and cold buffet luncheon included.

The cost is \$35, \$25 for the workshop and \$10 for dues as attendance then provides a year of club membership. We are asking for prepaid registrations. Because dues include an entire immediate family, additional attending family members are only \$25. If you are a current paid member you can pay \$25 for each family member attending the workshop and pay your dues later, or include the \$10 dues with your workshop payment. Please contact Jim Pinkerton or Matt Libhart to register as soon as you decide to attend, and pay by check made out to LCBS and mailed to Lori Stahl (address on cover page).

We can use presenters for the workshop on various subjects. At this point the club is offering the workshop at just over our cost, (we are doing a full day with lunch, drinks and snacks throughout the day) but the club will cover the cost of copies and handouts for the presenters so they will receive a \$5 discount. To volunteer to present, please contact Jim Pinkerton or Matt Libhart.

We are a growing club and there is so much to teach someone just getting started. This is a chance to pass on some of what each of us has learned about bees to the future Beekeepers of Lancaster County.

Thanks for your consideration.....Jim



Above are some of the color variations I saw in my queens this past summer. No purebreds in this yard....Just Mutts. You can get all these variations from the same queen's eggs, depending on the different drones she has mated with.