



LANCASTER COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY



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also

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Jim Pinkerton

Meetings for 2014

March 18, 6:00pm open hive..6:45...meeting begins 7:00pm

North Museum
400 College Ave
Lancaster, PA

Speaker Joe Lewis had his article published in American Bee Journal "Beekeeping 2.5". In it he explains how nucs can be used in our apiaries.

March 21 Tri County Meeting

Purcell Friendship Hall
109 McCorkel Road
Hershey, PA

Dr. Deborah Delane from the University of Delaware will be the speaker. The topic of her lecture will be "Why Genetics Are Important".

April 15, 6:00pm open hive.. meeting begins 6:30PM

North Museum
400 College Ave

Topics will include swarm prevention and making splits which will be important information as we're headed into May.

May 13, 6:00pm

Southeast Ag Research and
Extension Center
1446 Auction Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Open Hives... make or check splits and nucleus hives.

Club Member's Yard Sale and Plant exchange. You can sell your extra equipment or supplies and exchange seeds and plants from your yard. Always a well attended and fun meeting.

Meetings Continued.....

June 17 & July 15

Southeast Ag Research and
Extension Center

1446 Auction Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Open hives, Splitting hives and setting up and managing nucleus hives. Methods of raising your own Queens. No speakers or formal meeting, just hands on experience in our apiary on the farm.

August 16

National Honey Bee Day

Plan to do something to promote Honey Bees

August 19

Beekeeper's Picnic, Directions and times will be posted later

Sept 16, 6:00pm hive opening and meeting beginning at 6:30pm

North Museum
400 College Ave
Lancaster, PA

Back at the museum where we'll discuss winter prep and check the museum hive for winter-readiness.

Oct. 15, 6:00pm

Dutch Gold Honey
2220 Dutch Gold Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601

Our October meeting held every year at Dutch Gold Honey. More winter preparation discussions, a gadget competition, honey tasting, and possibly a presentation by Dutch Gold.

Nov. 11, 6:00pm

The Gathering Place
6 Pine Street
Mount Joy, PA 17552

A November meeting is planned for this year at The Gathering Place. Note the date is the second Tuesday. We'll be planning a national level speaker to give a presentation via online technology at this meeting.

2014 LCBS Nucleus hive Project

This year LCBS is encouraging our members to create their own nucs by giving each member the opportunity to buy up to two completely built nucs for an extremely discounted price. Although unpainted, they will come assembled, ready-to-use with frames and wax foundation. All they'll need are your bees. Having the frames means you can immediately replace any frames in the parent hives you use to create these nucs. The nucs are from our local Forest Hill Woodworking. All nucs have a bottom board, inner cover, and metal covered telescoping outer cover. No matter the size you order, you'll get a winterable configuration. The deeps have a single deep box with 5 frames; the mediums have two 5-frame boxes for a total of 10 frames which is why they're a bit more expensive. The nucs will be delivered during our May meeting at the Research Farm in Manheim. If you cannot make that meeting, the nucs will be taken to the Gathering Place in Mount Joy but ***must*** be picked up within 1 week after the meeting.

Each deep nuc is \$40.00. Each medium is \$50.00.
(Remember they do NOT include the bees)

Ordering will close at noon on March 24, 2014 or after 50 nucs are purchased, whichever comes first.



If interested and you do not use the internet, please give me a call and I can place the order on line for you. Jim 653-5911

Notes from Jim's Desk....

It is hard to believe it is mid March...The 2014 Farm Show, "Polar Vortexes" are history and the majority of the snow is gone. Seems the bees have had at least a day or so every couple of weeks thru the winter to come out and fly a bit. I am not sure what is best for the bees, to cluster for a good part of the winter or break cluster every few weeks, but it is good for **me** to see them out and about now and then.

I have gotten some reports of lost hives from beekeepers that seemed to be doing everything right. Now, just for the record, that includes all of us at one time or another. If you find a hive that is dead, take some pictures or notes of the frames where the bees were clustered. Note....Size of the hive (number and size of hive bodies). Was there honey left? Was the cluster in contact with the honey? Or were the bees on the left side of the box the honey was on the right side? Is the cluster wet? A dead cluster may be damp from normal moisture, but if they are wet, poor ventilation could have been the problem. Are there a lot of mites on the bottom board with the dead bees? Anyway, do some investigating, sort of a hive autopsy; learn all you can from the loss. Then get that hive protected so it is ready for new bees....my prediction is an early and heavy swarm season (see if I am better then that ground hog at predictions)

I have had some losses so far. One yard 3 of 4 are dead or in one hive, just gone (honey left, few dead bees on bottom board and no dead cluster that is often present in a hive that dies during the winter....just plain empty ??) Another in that yard has lots of dead bees on the bottom board, a fair size cluster of dead bees in the comb and some frames of honey...my guess would be high mite counts or disease weakened them. In other yards there are hives that look like late spring (the reason for my prediction)...hatching brood (these would have been eggs laid mid February), bees bringing in at least 4 different pollens (on those warm days), and a good supply of honey (for now anyway). Some of these hives are going to be busting in another month.

Protect that dead out hive from being damaged by mice and other pests. All of that drawn comb, with pollen and honey, can be used by the next bees you install in that hive. Brush out the loose dead bees. Don't worry about the ones stuck in the cells...the bees will clean them out. Those frames and the supplies in them are a real boost to the hive's next honey bee residents. Wax worms will not be a problem until the weather warms in late spring. Small Hive beetles are becoming more of a problem each year and I am not sure how early they become active in unoccupied equipment. They do winter over with the bees as I have seen many in hives already this year. So maybe treat the empty hive by shaking some Moth Crystals into the hive to keep the beetles out. Just remember NOT Moth Balls. Moth Crystals or *par dichlorobenzene* are available in most grocery stores. Just air the hive out for a few days before installing bees again.

They say queens will begin laying eggs when the days get longer. The queen in my one observation hive began to lay eggs (after a month and a half rest) the day after Christmas, so I guess at least some of what "they say" must be true.

As always, if you have questions (about bees, not your taxes or handling your mother-in-law's visit) contact any of the officers listed and if we cannot help you we will direct you to someone that can.

.....Jim



This is 2 Nucleus hives. They wintered as two 5 frame deep bodies each. The top tan box has a bottom like an inner cover with a hole, for feeding when needed in fall and late winter.

This picture was taken after a half super of honey from a dead out was added...so it is now two 5 frame deeps and one 5 frame shallow with the feeder box on top.

So far they look great.



There is snow on the ground but it was a warm day and I went no further than removing that feeder box, and then looked down between the frames. Looking into the hive with that feeder box removed, you can see a nice cluster of bees in the center. The 2 nucs were insulated as one, on 3 sides, than wrapped with tar paper.

One disadvantage of wrapping them together is I cannot lift each one to get an idea of weight.

This looks like a nice cluster of bees, but they are all dead. This hive starved. They were up against the inner cover and no honey within reach. Below them was about 2/3 of a supper of honey, they just could not move down to get to it. Probably my fault as this hive was a combined hive last fall. Had I done a very late fall check I could have adjusted the situation.

I took the frames of honey from this dead out and added them, in half supers, to each of the nucs in the top picture, just to give them a boost of honey.

