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Barnstable County
Beekeepers Association



buzzwords

<http://www.barnstablebeekeepers.org>

August 2020

Upcoming Meetings

Due to the possibility of showers in the morning, the UMass crew have decided to postpone our scheduled testing and zoom meeting for one week. It has been rescheduled.

A reminder and confirmation will be sent later next week and the Zoom site repeated.

Saturday, August 15th at 11 am.



**Tuesday, September 8
7:30 pm
TBA**

From The Board

It is hard to consider at this time that we, as beekeepers, need to be thinking of winter. We are in the middle of one heat wave after another yet, soon, our hives will start building/laying their winter bees.

With this in mind, we look back to the January 2020 issue of the American Bee Journal. We were referred to the 1975 edition of the "Hive and the Honey Bee" which preached the Four Fundamental Principles in Beekeeping management (author unknown as my copy is 2003). This list is critical for winter survival!

#1 "Our Hive Should Have A Young Queen Of Superior Genetic Stock"!

We as a club are slowly working toward this goal. It would be ideal if all of the purchased packages this spring had queens replace with locally grafted queens. This effort is increasing with over 100 virgin/mated queens purchased this summer by members. With your help, we will be building on these numbers all raised from strong overwintered gentle hives with superior brood patterns.

#2 "Properly Protected From Extreme Climatic Conditions And Established In A Well Constructed Hive".

This is really a no brainer and most of we beekeepers, keep our equipment tight and free of dry rot whether a standard Langstroth, top bar, Warre or polystyrene hive. But do keep hive condition in mind with little duct tape!

#3 "An Adequate Supply Of Honey And Pollen".

This comment is most critical especially at this time of the year. In another few weeks, hatching brood should be "fat bees". These are out winter bees that will live for four to five months. Without adequate pollen stores to feed the larva and several frames of nectar and honey for carbs

Newsletter Submissions

Please send Buzzwords submissions to [David Whalley](mailto:david.a.whalley@gmail.com) david.a.whalley@gmail.com.

We are looking for good stories, photos, links, news about talks and presentations you've done or seen, book and movie reviews, and items for sale or free to good home!

PDF, scanned document files, and hard copy submissions are not acceptable. You can create files in Word, Pages, Notepad, TextEdit, etc. for articles.

for feeding and for flight, the fewer winter bees we will have in the hive. Supplemental feeding might be needed at this time. If your hive is headed by a Carniolan or Russian queen and your stores are minimal, your queen will/might shut down laying. Some might think they are queenless but once feeding commences, the queen begins to lay again. So our goal as we head into fall will be a few frames of pollen (usually found in the bottom deep) and moving towards 60 to 70 pounds of honey for two deep boxes and total average weight of 135 lbs. If running a single deep, 50 pounds of stores and an average total weight of around 95 pounds. According to Randy Oliver in the American Bee Journal, January 2020, “the weight loss of a hive in the winter cluster is near of ONE POUND per week. This is due to their honey consumption”.

Forage

[CATCH THE BUZZ- COLONY LOSSES](#)

[QUEEN INTRODUCTION: HISTORICAL CAGES](#)

Cape Bee has a new hive scale and this will be interesting to watch this decreasing weight come winter. Check out www.beecounted.org and “view map”. Our hives are in Barnstable and noted further most on the right.

#4 “Maintained In A ‘Disease Free’ Condition”.

Every time we open our hives and pull frames of brood, we should not be just looking for a solid brood pattern. What is most critical is the color of the larva and pin holes in the capped brood. Sick larva will be yellow or have a yellowish tinge. This could indicate EFB or European Foulbrood. If extensive, a sour odor might be noted and it is advisable to notify the state inspectors. Pin holes noted in capped brood or cells chewed open indicate varroa mites. The workers have detected varroa and either did not finish capping the cell or have removed the capping and dragged out the infested larva. So have you done your alcohol washes and noted your varroa levels? Counts over two varroa per 100 bees need some form of treatment.

Another condition seen this season has been chalkbrood. This fungal infection damages the larva and they never complete their cycle but become a hardened “chalk like” chunk that might be seen on the stoop of the hive, on the bottom screened board of remain in the cell. Requeening should clear up this condition.

When in doubt of what you are looking at that does not seem normal, check out

www.beemd.com.

Claire

MDAR Apiary Program Updates – Share Widely!

Hi All

I hope you and your hives are doing well this season! I wanted share a few Apiary Program updates:

1. Note the NEW! Apiary Message Line phone number: 508-281-6784. This number will replace the existing message line number: 617-626-1801.
2. Routine Health Honey Bee Inspections have started this week. Please sign up using the online Inspection Request Form: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/mdar-apiary-inspection-request-form>. Note that inspections must adhere to the following guidelines this year given the risk that COVID-19 poses:
 - a. Beekeepers must confirm that they are currently asymptomatic or have not tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days prior to the inspection date.
 - b. Inspections are preferred as those without beekeepers present in the apiary.
 - c. If present during the inspection, beekeepers must wear masks and practice social distancing of at least 6ft during the inspection. Inspections will not be performed if beekeepers are not wearing masks or practicing social distancing.
 - d. Inspections will only occur outdoors. Inspectors cannot enter dwellings to gain access to an apiary to perform inspections.
 - e. Inspections will not occur in gatherings of 10 or more people.
3. Plan to attend the New England Honey Bee Update - Friday, August 14th, 2020: 2:00pm-4:00pm ET
 - Zoom Meeting ID: 971 7296 4155; Password: 733171
 - One tap mobile: +16468769923,,97172964155#
 - <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/97172964155?pwd=K0ZOS3dVYXVuRGFLbUhuMUxqa0lUQT09>

Did You Know?

Honey gives energy to bee flight muscles that beat 12,000 times per minute.!

Check out the BCBA Facebook page for shared links, photos, and questions/answers! Join the conversation!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BarnstableCountyBeeA/>

4. Note the cancelation of the State Apiary Monthly Events through August 2020:
- Saturday, August 8 – Fall Management - Part 1 – ***Canceled***
 - Saturday, August 22 - Honey Extraction- 10am - 2pm; Danvers Location Only – ***Canceled***

Hope you have a wonderful rest of your week,

-Kim

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Surveys And Videos

After our Saturday meeting and testing, there will be a video available made at the time of our Zoom meeting. This will show just what the USDA is sampling for across the states and how it is done. Here is a link of past surveys and the data collected: https://research.beeinformed.org/state_reports/

SMOKER FUEL

Every beekeeper has an issue with their smoker from time to time. Each of us find our favorite fuel, which burns best and last long enough for a good inspection. Shavings and punky wood are a favorite of mine.

REQUEENING

Making the decision to requeen can become a real issue. No one likes to have to kill a queen. And how does one decide just when to do it? Do we base it on age of the queen, her history or race or brood pattern? First choice would be brood pattern. If she is laying just drone or her pattern is spotty or laying very few eggs, she just has got to go or your hive will never survive. All

my new packages now have new queens as I want only locally grafted queens in these hives. And some of us would like to change the race such as removing Italians and replacing with a Carniolan or Saskatraz queen.

And the literature says that we should requeen in the late summer so our new young queen can overwinter and be ready to lay come the spring. A young queen is less likely to swarm so says the textbooks. What would you do if you had a brood pattern as seen at the left and this queen is now finishing her 3rd season? Some of you have her daughters (E-3). Makes no sense to me to kill her based on age with this solid brood pattern.



Available right now are the sumac pods. These can be picked and dried and stored for next year's smoker use.

There are beekeepers who requeen every year no matter how the queen is performing. This seems to be such a waste. So as you see, there is no easy answer but we hope your queen is “doing her job”!

Observation Hives



We have written about observation hives before but they continue to really be “the bee’s knees”. Such an enjoyment to watch the activity on a busy summer day whether child or adult. One can see the queen back in and lay or workers doing the waggle dance as she lets her sisters know just where she found that bountiful crop of pollen or nectar.

And they are a lot of work as when headed by a good laying queen, frames of brood need to be removed as often as every two weeks to prevent swarming. What you see to the left is the syrup bottle that holds 24 oz of sugar syrup. It was filled 48 hours before this picture was taken in a two frame hive. It was mind boggling that this small number of bees could down almost 20 oz in this short space of time. And where was it going? They were filling up the drawn frame that replaced the frame of capped brood. What are they telling us? Are they getting ready for winter early? And now where is the queen going to continue to lay? Best they consume some quickly so there will be room for more brood!! Going to put them on a diet!!



Photos by David Whalley

RESOURCES

The following officers and directors are a great resource to answer questions and requests for assistance.

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