

METRO BEEKEEPERS

September Newsletter 2010

Club Officers for 2010

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Regular meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the United Cooperative Services building, I-35 West and Bethesda Road (Exit 32), Burleson, Texas, at 6:30 P.M. Dues are \$15.00 per year.

Don't forget to bring a snack item for the break time. Perhaps something to drink? Water bottles would be great too.

Honey Contest!!! Bring your entry to this meeting. This event is fun !!! Also a food item made with honey & the recipe!! For sharing with others.

Guest Speaker: Brooks Bradley

Brooks Bradley will be our guest speaker and will give a great talk on Native Grasses. It will be interesting to learn about grasses in our environment.



Old Business: August 14, 2010

Notes from the Secretary

We had 20 members & 10 visitors present at last meeting
6 families joined MBK. Welcome to you all.

New members are:

Isidro Arzola
Don & Peggy Waldrop
Floyd & Coty Cooper
Marty Clock
Brooks Bradley
Sherry & Manny Leal

After introductions, discussed fundraising. Mentoring solutions & ways to improve Communication!!

Brett Childress demonstrated extracting our honey crop. Great Job Brett.

Guest speaker from- Abby's Pest & Termite. They are looking for beekeepers to join them in removing bees without killing them.

Brooks Bradley spoke on Native grasses and the benefit of them in our world.

Door Prize Winners!!!!

Don Kelly - Extracted Honey from Demo
Chrystal Richey - Bee Tealites
Kelly Davis - screen/bottom board

Raffle prize --

Gary Allison - Nuc Box

Congrats to all our winners!!!



New Business/Events

We hope **Allison Adams, the 2010 Texas Honey Queen** will be our guest at next months meeting. (October) Hope you all get a chance to be at our meeting to meet and greet Allison.



Preparing for Winter

From Bee Commerce

Do you have a queen?

Inspect your bees (look inside) and make certain that the Queen is there. The easiest way is to find eggs. One egg per cell means the Queen is present. Be sure to look for eggs, not larvae. Finding eggs means the Queen was there two days ago. Larvae could be three to eight days old, so finding larvae is no guarantee that you have a queen. If you wait too late in the season, you will discover that eggs and larvae are few and far between in the autumn. In that case, the surest method is to actually find the Queen. Be patient, and look carefully.

Do the bees have enough honey?

Your bees need plenty of food (capped honey) for the winter. Make certain that the upper deep hive body is full of honey. It is essential for their survival. It is the fuel for their stove. Without it they will certainly perish. The hive will need about 60-70 pounds of honey going into the winter.

Feed your bees

The colony will accept a 2-1 sugar syrup feeding until the weather is too cold for them to leave the cluster. The bees form a loose cluster at 57° F and as the temperature drops the cluster contracts and tightens. Feeding is useless after the cold weather contracts them into a tight cluster. Keep feeding them until they stop taking the syrup, or until the temperature drops and puts them in cluster. A hivetop feeder works best.

Fight the mites

Help the winter bees fight the mites. When winter bees die there are no replacements to make up for the attrition. It is unlike the summer growing population with a Queen laying 1200 eggs daily. *Acarapis Woodi*, the internal, invisible Tracheal Mite can be controlled with the use of Menthol. *Varroa Jacobsoni*, the external mite, requires the use of Apistan®, a chemically treated plastic strip that controls the spread of this predator of honeybees. Two such strips inserted next to the brood, one strip on each side, for 42 days stops this blood-sucking mite in its tracks.

Honey used for Human consumption must be off the hive when any medications are used.

More about the winter cluster

The winter cluster is started in the brood chamber when ambient temperatures reach 54 to 57 F. When cold weather comes, the cluster is in the center of the two hive bodies. It covers the top bars of the frames in the lower chamber and extends over and beyond the bottom bars of the frames in the food chamber. The organization of the bees is such, that they touch honey on the outer edges of the cluster.

Provide adequate ventilation

The temperature at the center of the cluster is maintained at 90-93 degrees. The warmer air from the cluster rises and hits the inner cover that is much cooler. The moisture that forms from condensation drips down upon the bees as ice-cold water. The outer bees of the cluster form an insulating shell of one or two inches. Their temperature holds at about 45 degrees even though air temperature in the hive may be down to zero! These are the bees that bring with them, the honey they are touching, as they rotate position with the bees inside the cluster. A sort of sharethe-warmth movement. That dripping ice water can really have a negative effect upon this



Feeding

Sugar-to-water ratio	Purpose
2-to-1 (2/3 sugar, 1/3 water) Approx. 5 lbs sugar per gallon	Fall feeding, during nectar dearth , or to administer medication , such as Fumidil-B
1-to-1 (1/2 sugar, 1/2 water) Approx. 3 lbs sugar per gallon	Spring feeding or to administer medication , such as terramycin soluble powder
1-to-2 (1/3 sugar, 2/3 water) Approx. 1.5 lbs sugar per gallon	Stimulate brood or comb production (for installation of a new honeybee package , preparation for requeening , weak hive)

Preparation

If you operate a smaller apiary that does not require high volumes of syrup, you may be satisfied with making the syrup by mixing up the sugar-water solution yourself. If so, perform the following steps, which illustrate preparation of a gallon of 2-to-1 sugar-water solution. You may vary the ratio per the guidelines in the above table. One gallon is usually the quantity administered to a single hive in one feeding.

A good “rule of thumb” to determine how much granulated sugar you need is to estimate approximately 5 lbs of dry sugar per gallon for a 2-to-1 sugar-to-water ratio, 3 lbs per gallon for a 1-to-1 ratio, and 1.5 lbs per gallon for a 1-to-2 ratio. These estimates are reflected in the [Syrup Solutions table](#) above.

Tip: If the colony is weak (they have a low population of field bees) they will not take the syrup quickly. Strong hives that have little natural nectar source can consume a gallon of syrup in 3 or 4 days or less. Weak hives may take up to 2 weeks. If the hive is weak, supply them with less syrup (start with 1/2 gallon at first). You may also mix three teaspoons of [Honey-B-Healthy](#) per gallon of sugar syrup to retard the growth of mold in the syrup. The **BeeCARE** [Dual-access Hive-top Feeder](#) has [removable feeding screens](#) that allow you to clean any mold from the feeder reservoir.



Old, nasty, moldy syrup

Note: Syrup is not the best method to administer [terramycin](#), as the drug becomes impotent quickly in a liquid medium. The preferred method is [extender patties](#). Feeding bees impotent terramycin can encourage the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, since some of the [bacillus larvae](#) and [streptococcus pluton](#) survive the treatment. This results in [foulbrood](#) bacteria that are very treatment-resistant, which can produce an even worse condition than the original foulbrood threat.

From BeeCARE...



Woodware Show and Tell

Eric Luebbert will be bringing woodenware from Gene Wentzel in Cleveland, Tx. Gene's woodenware is more environmentally friendly. He gets logs from companies clearing land. He then mills it and dries it. As you can see from the prices he is very reasonable. Hive parts (Hive bodies and supers are made with a drawer joint instead of a box joint, we will provide detailed recommended assembly instructions.

Deep Hive body - \$6.00 each
Medium Super - \$4.00 each
Shallow Super - \$3.60 each
Standard Bottom Board - \$4.50 each
Screened Bottom Board - \$9.50 each
Migratory Top - \$4.50 each

Frames (all prices are for GTB/GBB, for WTB or foundationless add \$0.05, also please specify if you plan to wire the frames as we will not put the holes in the endbars otherwise):

Deep Frames - \$0.47
Medium Frames - \$0.45
Shallow Frames - \$0.45

Our frames are quite sturdy, top bar is full 3/4" thick, endbars are full 3/8" thick and bottom bars are 13/16" wide by 7/16" thick. In addition we can offer 2 frame spacing choices: 1. The standard 1-3/8" spacing. 2. 1-1/4" spacing (they work better for small cell or foundationless).

All woodenware is made from Southern Yellow Pine, kiln dried to a maximum of 14% moisture (final moisture content will vary as our area is quite humid and some moisture can be re-absorbed after the parts are cut, pitch is set at 180 F).

Let Eric know if you want any woodenware from Gene at meeting.



Notes from the Editor:

This is the time of year that really has me excited. Now I am looking to see if I can maintain both hives that I have throughout the up-coming Winter. I hope everyone fared the hot weather. There was one day when it hit 115 degrees on my outside thermometer. That's just about too hot for honey bees, people or outside pets. I did buy top screens and it eliminated my bees from bearding on the outside landing board. With the screened bottom board and the top screen and some shade, I think they did well. I will use the screens again next year and buy more for new hives I intend to purchase this fall and winter.

I do hope you have saved the monthly "TO- DO" lists that I have enclosed in several earlier newsletters. It's time to really start looking at the fall season and its duties in keeping your hives healthy through Fall and Winter. Fall is on its way and will be here soon. Keep up the good work on those hives.

That's all for this month. BEE seeing ya at the next meeting, September 13, 2010 in Burleson. We have an excellent speaker coming to visit us.

Gary Allison
VP/Newsletter Editor
Metro Beekeepers

