

**3/26/15**  
**YCBA Monthly Meeting**

- I. Attendance
  - a. 100 in attendance (not including children)
  - b. Board: Coral, Renee, Erin, Jeremy, Molly
  
- II. Call to order and agenda
  - a. Future meetings:
    - i. April 23<sup>rd</sup>- Steve Rapasky (swarm control)
    - ii. May 28<sup>th</sup>- Nu-Bees sharing experience
    - iii. June 25<sup>th</sup>- Kirsty Traynor from BIP
    - iv. July 23<sup>rd</sup>- Maryann Frazier from PSY
    - v. August 27<sup>th</sup>- Bonnie Raindrop
    - vi. September TBD- Dave Hackenburg Apiary
    - vii. October 10- Annual Banquet
    - viii. November 12- SPECIAL tri-county meeting
  - b. Opening remarks:
    - i. Happy birthday to Jeremy!
      - 1. Past president and 2015 photo contest winner
    - ii. Tonight's speaker cancelled
    - iii. Treasurer's report
    - iv. Mentoring Program Update- several people need mentors and will speak with Coral after meeting
    - v. Upcoming events-
      - 1. PA Herb and Garden Fest- April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> (signup genius)
      - 2. Newberrytown Elementary- May 18 at 4:00pm to speak to elementary children (if interested, contact Erin)
      - 3. Picnic at John Rudy Park- Saturday, June 13 (signup genius)
        - a. Wendy Brister, of Wrightsville, will talk to members about native pollinator plants and will be selling some that bloom in June, July, and September
        - b. Please sign up to bring food on sign up genius
        - c. Need 2 people to coordinate the food for the picnic (call/email Coral)
      - 4. SAVE THE DATE- at 2pm on June 14<sup>th</sup> there is a dedication of MAEscapes Pollinator Garden at the Penn State Extension Office at Pleasant Acres
        - a. Requested YCBA to bring an observation hive (Jeremy is covering hive)
    - vi. Discussion of meeting venue

1. Requested to reserve auditorium in November for Tri County Meeting and it is \$250 for 4 hours plus custodial fees
2. Need a committee to help find another place to meet
  - a. Must fit 100-120 people
  - b. Contact board member if interested
  - c. For many venues we need proof of non-profit status
  - d. 501-3c status- need to establish our association as a proper non-profit with the proper paperwork
    - i. Need a lawyer's help
    - ii. Member had some leads
  - e. Motion to allocate funds to become a non-profit requested from Coral
  - f. Topic tabled for the moment until more information on cost to become non-profit and auditing expenses become available
- vii. Opportunity for work as beekeeper in Maine for 3 weeks (Mary volunteered)
- viii. Check out the association library (new books being added)
- ix. According to by-laws we need a program chair (Jeremy Barnes is stepping down)
  1. Call for volunteer(s) to coordinate our 2016 meeting program
  2. Contact Jeremy Barnes if interested
- x. Call for volunteers for nominating committee (elections in September)
- xi. David Papke (state of the bees)- dead outs- when colonies do not survive the winter
  1. Natural to try to figure out why they died, but it is difficult to do
    - a. Colonies normally don't starve. Dwindling normally happens
  2. Cleaning to comb: remove the old dark comb from the hive
    - a. 10-20 year old combs have smaller cells, which can effect the size of the bees if they're using it as brood comb
    - b. Use brush to remove dead bees
    - c. Next colony who inhabits the comb will clean the hive better than you
  3. Clean propolis off the hive and frames
  4. Un-winterize the hives
  5. Do first full inspection now during a warm day
    - a. Do now because colony is small
    - b. Make sure colony is queen-right (alive and actively making brood)
    - c. Scrape frames and hives

- d. Reverse the hives? Yes or no?
  - i. Old practice of moving the cluster of bees from the top, where they moved over the winter, and move them to the bottom of the hive
  - ii. Idea is that bees typically move up when they grow and by putting empty comb on top of the brood nest they have room to move
  - iii. If most of brood is on top and some brood is on bottom, don't reverse the hive boxes because you will be separating the broods
  - iv. If there is NO brood at all on the bottom, go ahead and reverse the boxes
  - v. David does not usually reverse the boxes, because when the brood wants to expand, they expand in all directions (not just above)
  - vi. DO make sure that there is empty comb around the brood nest
  - vii. Honey-bound is a colony that comes out of winter with a lot of honey. If colony has a lot of honey at the end of winter, replace honey that is in the frames against the brood nest with empty comb frames so that the brood nest can expand
  - viii. Once dandelion flowers begin to bloom, the colony will not eat the stored honey from winter. Instead they will eat the fresh nectar
6. In March cluster of bees begins to expand
  - a. Feel how heavy the colony is
  - b. It may need to be fed until the dandelions begin to bloom
  - c. Colony can starve if there isn't any honey left from winter and the colony is trying to expand
7. What can you do to help the bees?
  - a. Feed if hive is light in weight to avoid starvation (use sugar syrup)
  - b. Leave pollen patties in until Dandelions begin to bloom
8. How to build you colony without it swarming
  - a. Equalizing- Take frames of brood from strong colonies and give to weaker colonies
  - b. Before equalizing make sure the queen from the strong colony is not on the frame that you're removing
9. Too early for splits

10. If you have a queen-less colony, combine your hive with a hive that has a queen
  - a. If colony is creating a new queen, still combine because there aren't any drones for her to mate with
11. Diseases and Pests that show themselves in the spring
  - a. Chalk brood- fungal disease that attacks the brood
    - i. If you see an open cell that has a dried up larva or the dried up "mummy" larva on the bottom board, you have chalk brood
    - ii. Solution: Don't worry. Colonies will take care of chalk brood. Do increase the ventilation in your hive to decrease moisture.
  - b. Sac brood- virus (like the "common cold")
    - i. Occurs after the cell is sealed
    - ii. If bees open the cell to clean it out, you'll see a yellow-brown larva that looks like it has been wrapped in a cocoon
    - iii. Solution: Bees will take care of this themselves.
  - c. European foul brood-
    - i. larva dead in open cells and appear to be goo
    - ii. Solution: bees will recover with time
  - d. American foul brood-
    - i. Seen in capped cells
    - ii. If you see cells that have sunken in caps or cells that are pierced, pierce the cap with a toothpick, swish it around, and pull the toothpick out. If there is a brown goo that comes out of the cell and seems to be attached, call Nate, the state inspector
    - iii. 1.5% of colonies in the state of PA get AFB
    - iv. Contact PA state bee inspector if you suspect AFB
  - e. Wax moths and small hive beetles are not active until May
- xii. Jeremy Barnes
  1. PA has a 31% hive loss rate
  2. Bip.com site (bee informed site)
    - a. Free site
    - b. Gives information on hive losses in states
- xiii. Mary Kline
  1. Discussion on what is happening between the native bees and the honey bees
  2. Honey bees are competing with native bees for resources and pollinators

3. **Solution is to see it as less of a competition and we lose out on floral resources**
  4. **Honey bees are generalists (can go to many different plants)**
  5. **Most insects are specialists (only lay eggs on specific plants)**
  6. **Habitat loss is affecting the amount of pollinators**
  7. **Meadows are illegal within most ordinances in York County (many areas require grass to be a certain height)**
    - a. **Trying to change laws**
    - b. **Some townships have outlawed any plant that creates pollen**
    - c. **Before putting a meadow in, check your local ordinances**
  8. **Aromatic astor, mountain mint, and milkweed are native plants that can help honey bees**
    - a. **Native plants/pollinators are beneficial to specialist native bees and to honey bees**
    - b. **May 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-2pm is the 2015 heirloom plant sale- at Horn Farm Center**
- xiv. **Close meeting at 8:48pm**