

York County Beekeepers' Association

September 28, 2021

7:00 pm Aldersgate United Methodist Church

AGENDA

Welcome - Chris Smith, YCBA Vice President

- This is our final club meeting for the year

Appreciation for Outgoing Executive Officers and All Volunteers - Jeremy Barnes

- Gary Anderson, current YCBA president, has served two 2-year terms and is no longer eligible for the position per the bylaws. Many thanks for his leadership and guidance over the past four years, particularly through a global pandemic.
- John Shaffer, current YCBA treasurer, has served for 2 years and will seek another term
- Chris Smith, current YCBA vice president, has served 2 years in this position and will seek the president position
- Celia Berkstresser, current YCBA secretary has served 2 years in this position and will seek the vice president position
- Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who give their time and talents to support the club and all of its efforts. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Election of Executive Officers for 2022-2024 - Jeremy Barnes

- Proposed slate
 - Chris Smith, President
 - Celia Berkstresser, Vice President
 - John Shaffer, Treasurer
- Role and duties of Secretary to be reviewed and duties adjusted to reflect current needs; revised position will be announced and elected in 2022
- No candidates nominated from the floor
- Motion to elect proposed slate of candidates
- Unanimous vote for proposed slate of candidates; none opposed
- Motion passed

Volunteer Needs - Jeremy Barnes

- Community Outreach Coordinator

- Receives presentation and public event requests; matches YCBA volunteers to events; manages/tracks YCBA supply of handouts and presentation/event materials
- Contact Celia Berkstresser after the meeting if you're interested
- We are always looking for folks who are willing to staff an informational booth for an hour or two for public events and also folks who are willing to give informational presentations to school and community groups; look for more information coming soon

Plants and Trees for Bees - Celia Berkstresser

- What's blooming now?
 - Goldenrod
 - Asters
 - Sedum
 - Spotted Lanternfly Honeydew
 - Look for egg masses this fall/winter and destroy them by scraping them into a bag and mixing them with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer
- What will be blooming soon?
 - Goldenrod - continue until frost
 - Asters - continue until frost
 - Sages - October
 - Native Witch Hazel - November
- Nature rests and restores over winter
- Consider delaying your garden clean up until well into the spring
 - Many native insects that do important pollination work overwinter in leaf litter and hollow plant stalks

State of the Bees - David Papke

- Preparation for the winter begins at harvest time in July
 - Important decision point: take all the honey or calculate how much you can take and how much you should leave
 - Suggested that you leave some honey on the hives when you harvest because that's what bees have made for themselves to overwinter
- With excess honey removed, mite checks are easier
 - 3 mites/100 bees or 9 mites/300 bees (approx. ½ cup of bees)
 - Treat as needed
 - Continue monitoring
- Check to see if colony is queenright
 - Check brood nest for young brood

- Assess honey stores after dearth
- Feed if necessary
 - If the hive is really light, the end of September is probably a little late to feed heavily as the bees will likely not have enough time to evaporate all the water and make/cap sugar syrup before it gets too cold.
 - Feed 2:1 syrup
 - 2 parts sugar to 1 part water (e.g. 25 lbs sugar: 1.5 gal water)
 - Suggested refined, organic sugar to avoid pesticide residues
 - Neer brown sugar or “natural” sugars that are brownish in color
 - Prosweet is also an option
 - Premixed 4:1 ratio (½ high fructose corn syrup, ½ inverted sugars)
- Prepare hives - goal is to reduce stress
 - Secure location
 - Wind break
 - Wrap with some form of insulating material (or not)
 - Reduce entrances
 - Mouse guards
 - Close screened bottom board
- Avoid open feeding in fall
 - Increases chances of robbing by other honey bees
 - Increases pressure from yellow jackets and European hornets

Sugar Blues - Jeremy Barnes

- Why do beekeepers feed sugar to bees? When did this start?
 - Appears to have been an economic issue; likely post-war
 - Beekeepers calculated that it was cheaper to take all the honey from the hive and feed sugar to the bees because sugar was less expensive than what they could get for honey
- Should we manage for the health of the bees or for the benefit of the beekeeper?
- When bees forage, enzymes (e.g. invertase and protease) mix with the nectar and pollen they collect
- Studies show that honey increases the activity of genes that break down toxic substances in the hive
- Adding refined sugar to the hive changes the acidity of the hive and studies show that it decreases the ability for the bees to deal with fungicides and pesticides
- Studies have indicated that brood raised on honey
 - Have healthier larvae
 - Have healthier immune defense
- Studies have indicated that brood raised on sugar

- Are smaller in size
- Have a shorter life span
- Have compromised immune systems
- Are we exacerbating the mite problem by feeding sugar?

Wrap Up - Chris Smith

- Executive committee is going to meet throughout the remainder of the year to plan for next year
- Be on the lookout for an interest survey - we want to hear from you about what you need and want
- Looking forward to continuing YCBA goals of supporting beekeepers and promoting responsible beekeeping, mentoring, and outreach to our community in 2022

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1/25/2022 at 7:00pm at Aldersgate United Methodist Church