

4/23/15
YCBA Monthly Meeting

- I. Attendance
 - a. 94 in attendance
 - b. Board: Coral, Renee, Erin, Jeremy, Molly

- II. Stephen Repasky- *Swarm Management: What's Really Happening in Your Hive*
 - a. Introduction by Jeremy Barnes
 - i. EAS Master Beekeeper
 - ii. When he began his first captured swarms died
 - iii. 75 colonies, queen rearer, conducts classes
 - iv. from Pittsburgh
 - b. Meadowsweetbees.com (Steve's website)
 - c. meadowsweetbees@gmail.com (Steve's email)
 - d. "We fail to look at our hive as a whole."
 - i. 3 Stages of swarming
 - 1. Pre-swarming: swarm prevention
 - 2. Active swarming: swarm control
 - 3. Post swarming: swarm management
 - e. Pre-swarming (prevention)
 - i. 4-6 weeks prior to the first swarm but no later than the time at which viable queen cells appear
 - ii. Not an absolute or required management skill
 - iii. Timing is critical
 - iv. Pros:
 - 1. Break in the brood cycle
 - 2. Increase in colonies
 - 3. Create new younger viable queen
 - 4. Educational opportunity
 - 5. Increased wax production
 - v. Cons:
 - 1. Can be a potential loss of surplus honey
 - 2. Loss of population
 - 3. Delayed colony growth
 - 4. Societal fears (urban areas)
 - vi. Important to consider timing of blooms, historic swarming dates to local area, internal hive observations
 - vii. Observations:
 - 1. Many beekeepers are too late when it comes to stopping a swarm
 - 2. React to seeing swarm cells rather than minimizing them

3. Begin swarm management/prevention 4 weeks prior to average date of first swarms or when dandelions begin to show or even purple eye drones
- viii. Techniques (use various techniques; not just one):
 1. Reversing hive bodies
 2. Artificial swarms
 3. Young queens
 4. Caging the queen/separating the queen
 5. Adding supers
 6. Checker-boarding- breaking up brood nest with drawn comb
 7. Cutting Cells
 8. Queen excluders
- f. Swarm Control
 - i. Active swarming: when queen cells of all ages are present and the beekeeper may or may not know their colony swarmed
 - ii. Easy part if seeing the swarm cluster on the branch
 - iii. What evidence do you see?
 1. Age of queen cells
 2. New wax
 3. Brood patterns
 4. Nectar storage
- g. Post management
 - i. Once the queen cell is capped there is 8 days before the hive swarms
 - ii. Evaluate the condition of the brood:
 1. If colony swarmed, brood will be in late stage of development (late larval or capped)
 2. Backfilling the brood area with nectar
 3. Queen cells are sealed or emerged/aborted
 4. Equilibrium of colony requires time
 - iii. Days to Presence of Eggs:
 1. Mated queen (fresh): 1-5 days
 2. 7 day old virgin: 5-10 days
 3. Ripe (15 day old) queen cell: 12-21 days
 4. Day old larvae: almost a month
- h. Queen cells:
 - i. Age: queen cup, cell with egg, cell with larvae, capped, emerged/aborted
 - ii. Type: swarm cell (making a new queen to swarm), emergency (queen unexpectedly died and must quickly raise a new one), or supercedure (planned queens)
- i. When did they swarm?
 - i. If there is open brood, you know that they swarmed recently
 - ii. If sealed but no open brood: 4-5 days ago
 - iii. No brood but there are remains of swarm cells: 3 weeks ago

- iv. Multiple eggs in cells: over 28 days ago
 - j. What do you do after they swarmed?
 - i. Monitor hive for additional virgin queens or queen cells
 - ii. Monitor for eggs 2-3 weeks following to ensure hive queen-right
 - iii. May need to split to prevent swarms
 - k. What to do with the swarm
 - i. Returning bees to the mother colony
 - ii. Make a nuc
 - iii. Create a two queen system
 - iv. Sell or give it away as a “package”
 - l. Influences on swarming:
 - i. Weather (warm mostly sunny and relatively calm days)
 - ii. Time of year (most swarming occurs in mid to late spring; in Pennsylvania early May to late June)
 - iii. Time of day (most swarms will issue between the hours of 11am-2pm and orientation flights generally occur in mid to late afternoon)
 - m. Is my hive swarming?
 - i. Orientation flights have distinct flight patterns
 - ii. Robbing is frantic flights all of the hives and bees are fighting at entrance (angry hum)
 - iii. Bearding occurs late summer and in the late day/evening and usually relieves itself by morning
 - n. Usurpation: method in which one colony takes over a colony
 - o. Swarming of African Honey Bees swarm just like other races of honey bees but,
 - i. They swarm year round
 - ii. happen more often with less bees
 - p. His book: Swarm Essentials
- III. Break or 10 minutes (7:57-8:07)
- IV. Coral: Announcements
 - a. Future Meetings
 - i. May 28- Our nu-bees
 - ii. June 25- Kirsty Traynor from BIP
 - iii. July 23- Maryann Frazier from PSY
 - iv. Aug 27- Bonnie Raindrop
 - v. Sept 26- field trip to Hackenberg Apiary
 - vi. Oct 10- Annual Banquet
 - vii. Nov 16- Special tri county meeting
 - b. Picnic at John Rudy Park June 13th
 - c. Buy Fresh Buy Local Tastes of York County event on June 13th.
 - d. Save the date for June 14th and the MA Escapes Pollinator Garden dedication
- V. Treasurer Report
 - a. Checking- \$3,923.34
 - b. Savings- \$4,004.26

- c. 2014- 180 paid members
- d. 2015 Year to Date- 161 paid members
- e. Sending around a summary
- VI. Dave Neuberger - "Turners' Challenge"
 - a. Wood turners to turn honey bowls
 - b. Exchanging a honey bowl from the wood turners club to members of the beekeepers' association in exchange for a jar of honey from members
 - c. More than 20 members interested in the exchange
- VII. Larry Smeltzer discussing non-profit status
 - a. 501c3 has its benefits
 - i. exempt from income taxes
 - ii. exempt from sales tax
 - iii. facility discounts
 - b. For organizations of less than \$250,000, there is a 1023EZ that is an easier 4 page form that may be filled out
 - c. IRS charges \$400 application fee
 - d. Charter has to line up with 501c3 provisions
 - i. If our charter is already lined up, then we may not need help
 - ii. If it isn't, then we'll need an attorney
 - e. No changes to our expenditures
 - f. Larry can provide assistance with 1023EZ form and has a contact at the York IRS office who works with non-profit organizations
 - g. Contacted Andrea Anderson, attorney, for help if we need to rework our bylaws
- VIII. Email Coral if you are interested in helping to re-write the bylaws
- IX. Email Coral if you are interested in joining the committee that organizes our speakers and topics
- X. Dave Papke: State of the Bees
 - a. Questions? Members requesting that Dave "ramble".
 - b. Make sure that you are giving the bees enough space to avoid swarming
 - i. Reverse your boxes
 - ii. Go into colony, assess where brood nest is, is there room on both sides of brood?, take capped honey out of colony and replace with drawn comb, add supers to make colony feel like they have more space
 - iii. Papke is adding a queen excluder around May instead of doing it earlier
 - c. Equalizing: Boosting the weak colonies by taking brood out of the stronger colony and giving it to the weaker colony
 - d. Instead of checking for queen cells one frame at a time, lift up an entire hive box and look underneath so that you can see all of the bottom of the frames in the box at once
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm (time for socialization and snacks)

