

York County Beekeepers' Association

# July 24, 2021

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7:00 pm Aldersgate United Methodist Church

## **AGENDA**

### **Welcome - Gary Anderson**

- Viewed WGAL news video segment featuring Nancy Nolton
- Brown's Honey House - there have been several electrical issues; anticipated repair date is Friday 8/27
- YCBA banquet is traditionally scheduled for October
  - Nothing is planned yet; need to determine interest/comfort given current and future Covid considerations
  - Gauge member interest
  - Need coordinator(s) if we proceed

### **Bee Talk - Skip Missimer**

- Some consider August the start of the beekeeping year
- By now, you've pulled your honey supers and extracted honey
- Hopefully you have assessed your mite situation and treated if needed
- Be sure to recheck your mite numbers after treatment to determine how effective the treatment was
- Continue checking mite levels throughout the fall
- The bees in the hives right now are the ones that are going to raise the winter bees; make sure they have the health and resources to do that important job
- Winter bees live 4-5 months and have more fat bodies than the bees raised throughout the rest of the year
- Be sure your hives have 50-60lbs of honey going into winter
- It is normal for bee temperament to change in the late summer/fall; very protective of their resources
- Get mouse guards ready

### **Plants and Trees for Bees - Celia Berkstresser**

- What's blooming now?
  - Wingstem/Golden honey plant
  - Annual sunflowers
  - Borage

- Shining/Winged Sumac
- Heather
- Caryopteris
- Japanese Angelica Tree
- What will be blooming soon?
  - Goldenrod
  - Asters
  - English ivy
  - Seven son flower
  - Japanese knotweed
  - Sedum
- Native plant events coming in September
- Spotted Lanternfly/honey bees collecting honey dew discussion

### **Tools for Varroa Management Guide - Gary Anderson**

- Honey Bee Health Coalition has developed helpful resources for beekeepers to learn how to manage varroa in their hives (<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>)
- Download the free Tools for Varroa Management Guide
- There is an interactive decision tree that helps beekeepers determine what treatment options are best for them taking into consideration different philosophies, time of the year, etc.
- Explains the different treatment options, includes helpful demonstration videos
- Bottom line
  - Monitor mites via sample testing; visual inspection is not accurate
  - Now is the time to get a mite count if you haven't yet
  - Continue monitoring through the fall as the bee population decreases and the mite population increases

### **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 9/28 at 7:00pm at Aldersgate United Methodist Church