

FEBRUARY 2017 YCBA MEETING MINUTES

The YCBA held its February 2017 meeting at the Penn State Campus, York, commencing at 7pm. The meeting was chaired by Vice President Renee Heldridge. Other Officers present were the Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian. Past President, Jeremy Barnes was also in attendance. There were 96 members attending the meeting.

Agenda:

1. Review of future meeting dates and topics.
2. Reminder to renew dues by March 31. Only members in good standing will be receiving Emails from the Association.
3. Election of new Officers to be held in September or October this year. Gary Anderson, current member, is interested in succeeding Coral as President, and is assisting the current board members with Association business. Positions are open for volunteers; contact Coral if interested.
4. Tri-County meeting was discussed.
5. March 23rd meeting to include various discussions/ presentations on varroa mites and ways to use oxalic acid for mite management. A group from the Lancaster County Bee Club will also present a Varroa management "display".
6. EAS 2017 to be held July 31 through August 4 at the University of Delaware. Courses to include information helpful from the beginner to advanced beekeeper.
7. York Fair dates: September 8 through 17th. Volunteers are needed for 2 hour slots to man the YCBA booth, as well as for planning and setup. Log onto Sign Up Genius to sign up for booth times that suit your schedule. Contact Coral to assist with planning and setup.
8. PennApic Spring Workshop: March 19, from 10am to 4pm. At Dover Fire Hall. Doors open at 11:30. A variety of speakers, vendors and activities are available to anyone interested in beekeeping.
9. YCBA mentorship program needs mentors, especially the Spring Grove area. Contact Renee Heldrich if interested. If you are looking for a mentor, find your address on the "mentor map" and contact a listed mentor close to you.
10. The YCBA Centennial Celebration Committee is forming! The centennial is in 2019. Contact Coral at coral1051@gmail.com, or call 717-577-4774 for further information on volunteering.

Speaker: Jeremy Barnes

Q & A:

1. Feeding heavy syrup was discussed: PA has pollen, but not enough nectar, this time of the year. Feeding now will stimulate brood rearing; brood may die if there is a cold snap and the bees cluster.

2. Robbing from “dead out” hives may be seen. May move honey from these hives to active hives, as long as disease is not present. If the frames are in question, they can be watched for problems or frozen before transfer to the active hive.
3. Bees can be reinfected with varroa only weeks after being treated. Vary your treatment methods so mites do not become resistant.
4. Start mite checks by April. If more than 5 mites per 100 bees, treatment is needed. Some sources recommend treating at 3mites/ 100 bees.

Where Can I Get Good Bees?

1. Packages: **PROS-** 3lb. Bees with Queen. Easy to insert into hive. March or April availability. **CONS-** may not be a reliable source of bees, as commercial suppliers have their own “agenda”, interested in making money. It is assumed the Queen and her workers will “get acquainted” on the journey to your destination. Queen may not be accepted. Do not know the history of the bees, re: diseases, productivity, varroa resistance, etc.
2. Imported Nucs: **PROS-** bees already on frames. Pollen and nectar are with the bees in transport. Frames are moved easily into hives. **CONS-** Expensive. No knowledge of Queen or bee history (as in packages).
3. Per Tom Seeley of Honey Bee Ecology, states that imported bees from the South are likely to be on a Southern bee cycle, taking 10 or more months to adapt to PA conditions. Local raised or second year colonies are better investments.
4. Captured Swarms: **PROS-** free! Relatively easy to capture. **CONS-** Queen replacement necessary. Pests/ pathogens possible. Unable to plan for swarm capture.
5. Local beekeeper Nucs: **PROS-** local bees with history. Drawn comb, honey, pollen with a proven local Queen. **CONS-** Medium vs deep frame; varied availability and cost.
6. Paid members to receive contact information on local beekeepers selling bees in about 2 weeks from tonight’s meeting.
7. Your own splits: **PROS-** history known. Taking Queen from the old hive is a form of swarm control, and can decrease the number of varroa early in the season. Beekeeper is in control. **CONS-** various ways to make splits.
8. Nuc Workshop to be held Saturday, April 29 and May 20, with a “hands on” approach. Notify Jeremy Barnes if interested.
9. Splits from YCBA colonies may be available from Mark Gingrich and Bill Sprinkle. Queen cells available at the YCBA picnic. Exchange Queens with other beekeepers for splits.
10. Foundation should be changed out at least every 3 years, as it may contain pesticides, etc. Beeswax is the hives’ “cleaner”.
11. Bees with deformed wings indicate varroa virus present in the bees. Varroa test and treatment should be done as soon as possible.
12. An “Everything Varroa” hands- on workshop will be announced at a later date.

13. Brushy Mountain has a new varroa check product, costing approximately \$20.00 each, called "Hive Check". It is easier to complete a varroa count with this method.

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gettys, Secretary