

# THE BEEHIVE

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers

KEEPING LOCAL BEEKEEPERS INFORMED

January 2005

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## Yellowjacket Traps

It's hard to imagine with snow, ice storms, flooding and now near 0 temperatures that yellow jacket problems were recently a hot topic of discussion at the monthly meeting. I was asked to write an article on yellow jacket traps and while the timing could be better, perhaps it will be of help come next fall.

During most of the spring and summer adult yellow jackets feed on meat usually from insects and sugar. The sugar is obtained from nectar and also from their young who secrete a sugary substance. During this time they rarely bother humans or bees. In fact they can be of benefit because they can eliminate pests in the garden.



Commercially available yellow jacket traps.

However, later in the season they stop rearing young and nectar sources become scarce. They stop foraging for meat and seem obsessed with anything sweet gathering at picnics, garbage cans, rotten fruit, and bee hives. With the mild weather we had this past fall the yellow jackets were even more of a problem than in past years.

Trapping yellow jackets is an effective way to reduce or eliminate the problem. If you usually have yellow jacket problems in the fall you may consider trapping well before fall to head off the problem. In fact traps set in early spring may catch emerging queens eliminating a whole colony which may have grown to 500 or more yellow jackets by fall.

There are many commercial traps available on the market. All operate pretty much the same way. They consist of a container with tube or cone entrances the yellow jackets easily find when going in, but have a hard time finding when exiting,

## Presidents Corner

I certainly am looking forward to a very happy and productive 2005! We have a bee club meeting on January 25th at the Pandora High School at 7:30 p.m. and I hope that all of you can attend.

We have a guest speaker coming to the meeting. He is David Duncan from Crestline, Ohio. David is a very active beekeeper and is involved in many aspects of beekeeping. Not only does he have honey bees, but he makes soap, hand lotions, lip balm, candles, etc. He has recently started making beeswax casts of people's faces and will bring some of those along. He is becoming more involved in bee removal, not only honey bees, but also wasps and hornets and will be sharing that information with us.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Dwight

## Hostess

January: Sheila A. McNally  
February: Bob & Deborah Parsons, Justin Baker  
March: Al Wischmeyer  
April: Kathy Barfell  
May: Tim & Dawn Arbeit

bait to attract the yellow jackets and liquid to trap them. Homemade traps are simple and cheap to make and can be just as effective as commercial traps.

### Homemade traps:



This simple homemade trap consists of little more than a pop bottle with two 1" opening cut in opposite sides.



Another homemade trap using the bottle top to provide a funnel like entrance. Some shelter may be needed to prevent it from filling with rain water.



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Two bottles are used here to make a funnel trap as above and provides a simple way to hang the bottle from a string attached to the top.

Of course the trap will do little without bait to attract the yellow jackets. Some commercial traps use a bait containing pheromones but it isn't necessary to get good results with our homemade traps. Any fruit juice, sugar syrup in the trap or jam or jelly smeared inside the trap will do. In early spring thru mid summer proteins are highly desirable. Fresh fish, ham or turkey work well but should be fresh as yellow jackets do not like spoiled meat.

Various other recipes for bait also sometimes include various combinations of syrup, banana peels, sliced apples and other fruit. If you find a recipe that works better than the others let us know.

And finally, the bottom of the trap should have an inch or two of water (if it doesn't already contain syrup) with a few drops of soap to break the surface tension and permanently trap the yellow jackets inside.

# Recipe Of The Month

Recipe courtesy the National Honey Board

## Thai Honey Chicken Wings

### Ingredients:

- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 tablespoons smooth peanut butter
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 teaspoon hot pepper flakes, or to taste
- 8 chicken wings  
(about 2 lbs.)



In large bowl, combine all ingredients except chicken wings, stirring to mix thoroughly. Add wings, stirring to coat. Cover and chill for 2 to 4 hours, stirring occasionally. To cook, place wings on foil-lined baking pan, reserving excess marinade. Bake at 375 degrees F for 25 minutes, basting with reserved marinade halfway through cooking, until wings are golden brown and cooked through. Remove pan from oven and heat broiler on high; broil wings until deeply browned. Transfer to serving platter to serve. Makes four servings.

## Honey Blueberry Spread

- ½ cup fresh or frozen blueberries, thawed
- ¼ cup honey, divided
- ½ cup butter or margarine, softened to room temperature



Bring blueberries and 2 tablespoons honey to boil over medium-high heat stirring constantly; cook 3 to 4 minutes or until mixture thickens and is reduced by half. Cool. Blend in remaining honey. Beat in butter. Great for bagels, biscuits and toast. Makes about 2/3 cup.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in bee culture. Dues are \$6 per calendar year. This is a family membership. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings. Members are encouraged to submit articles to the editor for publishing.

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Pandora School, Pandora, Ohio. Time 7:30 p.m. Field trips and or picnic in June, July and August as announced in "The Beehive". No Meeting in December

The Associations' book and video library is free to be used by all members. Materials may be withdrawn from the librarian at the meeting and are to be returned at the next meeting.

"The Beehive", serving Northwest Ohio, is the official publication of the Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association.

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