

THE BEEHIVE

KEEPING LOCAL BEEKEEPERS INFORMED

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers

November 2004

Volume 16, Issue 11

November Meeting—Tuesday 23rd Dessert Exchange & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Last month we voted to throw a holiday party at the November meeting on Tuesday the 23rd. So please come with holiday cheer and join us for a joyous occasion. We will be trying two fun holiday events.

Each family is asked to bring 2 Dozen of your favorite holiday cookies, squares or other holiday snack. They will be exchanged individually so you could end up taking home 24 different delicious desserts.

There will also be a white elephant gift exchange. Everyone who wants to participate should bring a new or used item destined for a garage sale, wrap it up and bring it along. One beekeepers junk is another's prize, so dig out those romance novels from our August auction (if you are done reading them DW). Come with your smiles, laughter and plenty of joy.

Election

The election for next years officers will also be held at the November meeting. Those nominated at the October meeting for the positions are:

President: Dwight Wilson
V. President: Tim Arheit
Secretary: Alan Wischmeyer
Treasurer: George Brenneman

Bob Parsons was also nominated but turned it down.

Varroa Is Back?

Varroa never really went away, but for several year now they have been relatively under control. Most have Checkmite and Apistan to thank for this. However, overuse and misuse of these drugs has caused resistance to develop in the mite, especially in areas of large commercial operations such as California, but some resistance has been found in many other states as well. (Continued on page 2)



Presidents Corner

The next meeting will be held November 23rd. Don't be confused, there are five Tuesdays this month. Bring your spouse as this will be our Christmas party and cookie exchange. Looking forward to seeing you then.

God Bless!
Dwight

Hostess

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

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Lyle Johnson, the American Honey Producers Association president, indicated at the Alberta Beekeepers Associations meeting this November, that he suspects there will be a loss of about 40% of US hives between now and February. Much of this expected loss is being attributed to the spread of varroa resistant to both Checkmite and Apistan.

This seems to be a very serious problem in California where some beekeepers have reported 50% losses even before the winter has really begun in spite of treating with high doses of both Checkmite and Apistan. Some are speculating that there are many beekeepers unaware that their mite treatments have failed because they fail to monitor mite loads. These losses won't show up until mid winter or spring.

This problem is likely to spread rapidly due to the thousands of hives moved into and out of California for almond pollination and though package bees being shipped thought the country.

The good news for California beekeepers: Almond pollination may be up to \$75 per hive this year and possibly as much as \$100 the next year. Demand for packages, nucs and queens is also expected to be up which will likely result in higher prices.

This is not good news for most of us here in Ohio, but it doesn't have to be. Resistant strains of bees are being developed with reported good success. Alternate treatments are expected to be on the market soon if they aren't already (Formic, thymol and others). They aren't as effective, but they do work. Hopefully many beekeepers will learn from this what they failed to learn with Varroa first showed signs of resistance to Apistan. Dumping chemicals in the hive is only a quick fix and should not be used constantly, over used and should not be the only treatment. It may be quick and cheap in the short run, but soon these treatments will have no value to anyone. It's more important now than ever before to monitor your bees and practice IPM (Integrated Pest Management). With smart management hopefully we can keep new treatments working much longer so they will be useful when infestations truly are at critical levels.



Varroa on larvae.

Is the Meeting Canceled?

As the winter approaches there may be meeting days when the weather is bad. If Pandora School is canceled then the Association's meeting is canceled. This is true even if the weather improves during the day because we will have no access to the school building.

Bees For Sale

Deeps with Bees & New Queen \$50 Each

Complete Hives \$60

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Call Steve Burtchin (419) 645-4407



Varroa on a honeybee showing symptoms of the Deformed Wing Virus that is vectored by the mite.

November Checklist

- Secure the hives for winter. Bricks on top of the cover to keep it from blowing off.
- Last minute feeding while there are still a few days in the 40's and 50's.
- Mouse guards or entrance reducers in place.
- Upper ventilation in place whether a special box, notch in the inner cover or simply a nail under the inner cover. Trapped moisture can kill bees.

Recipe Of The Month

Recipe and photograph provided
courtesy of Land O Lakes, Inc.

Buttermilk Bread with Spiced Honey

Bread Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup whole wheat flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups buttermilk*
1/2 cup Butter, melted
1/2 cup honey
2 large eggs, beaten

Spiced Honey Ingredients:

1/2 cup honey
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/8 teaspoon ground allspice



*Substitute 4 1/2 teaspoons vinegar or lemon juice plus
enough milk to equal 1 1/2 cups. Let stand 10 minutes.

Heat oven to 350°F. Combine flour, whole wheat flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in large bowl. Add buttermilk, butter, honey and eggs; stir just until combined.

Pour batter into greased 9x5-inch loaf pan. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Remove from pan.

Meanwhile, combine all Spiced Honey ingredients in 1-quart saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until mixture comes to a boil (3 to 5 minutes). Cool completely. Serve with bread.

Makes 12 servings (1 loaf); 1/2 cup Spiced Honey.

TIP: You can change the flavor and texture of this quick bread by using “add-ins”. Add 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans, 1/2 cup raisins or dried cranberries.

TIP: If your quick bread sinks in the middle, there may be too much liquid in proportion to the dry ingredients in the recipe – make sure you measure ingredients accurately. It may also mean that your baking powder is no longer active. To test whether your baking powder is still good, combine 1 teaspoon baking powder with 1/3 cup hot water. If it bubbles, it is still good. If not, replace it. Never buy baking powder that is past its expiration date printed on the bottom of the can.

TIP: Bread can also be baked in three greased (5x3-inch) mini loaf pans. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

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NWOBA

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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.

C. Bee Apiaries

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