

# THE BEEHIVE

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers

KEEPING LOCAL BEEKEEPERS INFORMED

September 2004

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## Fall is Here

We have been blessed so far this month with warm weather and pretty good forage judging by the amount of goldenrod, aster and other flowers. A pleasant change from last year when the weather turned cold and there was nearly no forage. Yet while fall has just started beekeepers need to start seriously thinking about preparing for winter. Preparations now can mean success or failure during the winter. Successful wintering mostly depends on colony strength, health, hive ventilation and adequate food stores.

Hopefully everyone is harvesting their honey or has already done so by now. If not it should likely be done as soon as possible. Inspections are more difficult with extra honey on the hive, and treatment in many cases should not be done with honey you plan on harvesting still on the hive. Typically I will have harvested my hives several weeks ago and will leave the fall flows for the bees to overwinter on.

Hives should be inspected for disease, and adequate populations and to ensure they have a queen. Finding the queen herself isn't really necessary, finding young brood and/or eggs is normally enough. If you find a weak or queenless hive there are few options this time of year. For the weak hive, and if you can't find a queen, combining them with a

## Presidents Corner

Hello bee keepers!

I noticed that the bees were working the golden rod heavily today. I hope that means that the bees will be getting some fall honey this year. That will help alleviate some of the feeding that we had to do last spring.

Our next bee keepers meeting will be held on the 28th of this month at the Pandora High School at 7:30. Hope to see you all there.

The agenda for the meeting will be: Extracting Honey

I would like to have any of our members at the meeting give a short talk on how they process their honey. (From the hive to selling) If you are interested in sharing.....15 minutes will be set aside for those of you who wish to participate.

Fall medicating is another subject that needs to be talked about at this meeting also if time allows, or would continue at our next meeting.

We will need a nomination of our new officers to be given at our October meeting. Please step up to the plate if you are interested yourself, or have someone in mind. The election will take place in November.

Hope all of you are in good health!

Dwight

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Our Sympathy is Extended To

Paul Chapin whose wife, Pauline, passed away on August 15th.

strong hive, or combining two or more weak hives is likely your best bet. Allowing a strong queenless hive to raise it's own queen now may work, but can be chancy if the weather turns or not enough drones are around. I have already seen colonies dragging out drones. Strong colonies should still be raising brood, though it may already be less than even just several weeks ago. These young bees just being raised are important for successful overwintering because they will form the bulk of the workforce in the spring.



If you plan on treating your hives, or if testing and monitoring indicates that treating your hives is necessary this fall, they should begin now. This is especially important for treatments such as menthol that require warmer weather or Checkmite that has a long treatment period and the strips must be removed on schedule to reduce the risk of resistance and contaminated comb. With products such as these it is important to consider of what the weather will be like during and at the end of

treatment.. Waiting another month or even a few weeks could significantly reduce the effectiveness of the treatment (in the case of menthol), or may force you to open hives in less than desirable conditions to remove the strips. Other treatments used have various treatment periods and effectiveness that can be dependent on temperature so read the instructions carefully and plan accordingly.



Hive stores should be checked as well. Colonies in our area typically need 50-80 pounds of honey and a couple frames of pollen. Feeding now is not critical yet as forage is still available, usually up until the first frost. However, inspecting the stores now will let you estimate how much feeding may be necessary. You might consider beginning feeding of particularly light hives, though typically in most years only a few week hives will need feeding and I only need to start feeding in October. That appears to be holding true for this year thankfully.

Most other winter preparations such as adding ventilation, wrapping, insulation, wind breaks, etc. can be left until next moth and are not really necessary until the daytime temperatures are much colder than the 70 and 80 degree highs we have been having .

One last, and very important problem to consider this month is the wax moth. The wax moth will cause most of it's damage now in the drawn comb from harvested supers before the weather gets freezing. They prefer comb that brood has been in, but can be found in any drawn comb. Freezing or storing supers with Paramoth are effective preventatives.



The lesser wax moth.

### September/October Checklist

- Inspect hives for disease and treat when necessary.
- Check hives for good populations and a queen. Combine hives not strong enough or those without a queen.
- Begin feeding unusually light hives and plan on feeding hives after the first frost if the they have not put up enough stores by then.
- Protect empty supers from wax months.
- Watch for robbing when flows dry up and reduce entrances if necessary.

# Recipe Of The Month

Editors Note: These are a repeat from may, but we got so many requests for these recipes at the picnic, we thought we'd run them again.

## Peanut Button Bumble Bees

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1-1/2 cups Graham Cracker Crumbs or finely crushed Honey Grahams
- 1 square Semi-Sweet Baking Chocolate
- Sliced Almonds, toasted



Beat butter, peanut butter and powdered sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add cracker crumbs; mix well. Shape tablespoonful of butter mixture into 1-inch oval to resemble body of bumble bee. Repeat with remaining butter mixture for additional "bees." Melt chocolate as directed on package. Drizzle in lines on top of bees to resemble bees' stripes. Insert almonds into both sides of each body for "wings." Makes 30 bees. Store in the refrigerator for up to 3 days.

## Honey-Nut Graham Chews

- 30 Marshmallows
- 1-1/2 cups (3 sticks) butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 20 whole Honey Grahams, coarsely crushed (about 5 cups crumbs)
- 1 cup Honey Roasted Peanuts, chopped

Line 8-inch square pan with foil. Lightly grease foil; set aside. Place marshmallows, butter and honey in large

saucepan; cook on medium heat until mixture comes to boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Add vanilla, crumbs and peanuts; mix well. Press mixture into prepared pan. Cover; refrigerate at least 2 hours. Cut into 1-inch squares. Store in airtight container



Allen County Fair First place Recipe!

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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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