



Bee Biz

Monthly Newsletter of the Coweta Beekeepers

President's Message

October 2011

Saving the World, One Bee at a Time

Summer is a memory and winter an immediate threat so my message this month discusses preparing hives for winter. Information was "borrowed" from www.about.com and hopefully will answer questions for both the experienced and novice beekeeper.

Preparing hives for the winter is not difficult or time consuming and it helps assure the beekeeper that bees will be healthy the next spring.

The most important step is to make certain that bees have enough honey for the winter, but other tasks also need to be performed at this time of year.

Other suggestions are as follows:

- Prepare hive so bees have enough honey. At least 70 pounds of honey are needed for the winter. Supplement honey supply with a 2:1 sugar syrup (two parts sugar to one part water by weight) if necessary.
- Medicate. After honey has been removed check hives for diseases. Treat with fumagillin for nosema, antibiotics for American foulbrood, grease patties for tracheal mites and product for varroa mite control.
- Check for queen and brood. Look closely for the queen and brood. Remember that limited brood may be present.
 - Check food storage pattern. Stored food should be located at the sides and above the broodnest. Equalize honey frames in order to balance honey.
- Replace bottom board. Exchange screened bottom board for solid one to keep the hive

warmer.

- Put mouse guards in place. To prevent mice place metal trap at each entrance.
- Construct a windbreak if needed. Construct with straw bales or make temporary fence with posts and some burlap. Place heavy rocks or bricks on the top cover of each hive to ensure they don't blow off.
- Ensure adequate ventilation. During the winter, the colony clusters with center being 90 to 93 degrees. If there is not enough ventilation, warm air from the bee rises, hits the top of the cold inner cover and drips down on the bees. Prevent this by either gluing four small pieces of wood (like pieces of a popsicle stick) to all corners of the inner cover's flat side to give 1/16 in. of ventilation between the top of the upper deep hive body and the inner cover or placing the inner cover on the top deep flat side down, leaving the inner cover hole open for ventilation. To ensure good airflow, keeping the colony dry, center the outer cover. • Wrap hive in black tar paper. In colder climates black roofing tar paper can cover the hive to keep it warm. Leave open the entrance or any ventilation holes.
- Close everything up. Conduct the last inspection at least a full month before winter arrives according to the calendar (late November) after all treatments are complete, food is stored, a new grease patty in place, and the hive tilted slightly forward (about an inch) so that any water can run out the front of the hive.

Good Luck!

Meeting

Our next meeting will start at 7:00 pm at the Asa Powell Expo Building. Meeting date is October 10, 2011 our speaker for this month will be Bob Binnie and he will be talking about commercial beekeeping, refreshments are being supplied by Lynn Batchelor and Gary Cooke. **Drinks and ice will be supplied by the club!!**

2011 Dues

You can still pay your dues for 2011 to Mike Copeland at a meeting or by mailing them to him at P.O. Box 159, Luthersville, Ga 30251. Dues for the 2011 calendar year starting January 1st thru December 31st, are \$15.00 per family. If you would like to receive your newsletter through e-mail please inform Donna, and give her your e-mail address. Dues are used in the following manner: for postage of this newsletter, supplies for our meeting, and the Christmas Party.

Up Coming Events

The Coweta Beekeepers Association is offering a beekeeping course January 28, 2012, at 8:00 AM, at the Asa M. Powell, Sr. Expo Center, 197 Temple Avenue, Newnan, Georgia. [Auburn University Beekeeping Symposium](#) 17th Annual Auburn University Beekeeping Symposium Saturday February 4, 2012 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Auburn University

<http://www.hd.net/blogs/bee-aware-september-20-2011/>

