

NORTHEASTERN INDIANA BEEKEEPER LETTER

MARCH

2017



NORTHEASTERN INDIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION - FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM

The meeting will be held at the **Classic Café, 4832 Hillegas Road, Fort Wayne IN 46818**

Beginner's Night

Thursday March 16, 7:00 P.M.

(Beginners should arrive early to register)

The meeting will be held at the

Classic Café

4832 Hillegas Road

Fort Wayne IN 46818

Our March meeting will be our annual Beginner's Night. This meeting focuses on giving people who are interested in getting started in beekeeping the necessary information they need. It is also a good refresher for the rest of us as we begin another season.

Chris LaSalle will give his introductory beekeeping presentation that covers the basics of beekeeping. This is a very interesting and informative presentation that provides a good base on which to build your beekeeping knowledge. There will also be displays of beekeeping equipment to help you see what is involved in keeping bees. Literature and equipment catalogs will be available.

Cost is \$25.00 for Beginners

Cost includes a beginner book, hive tool, and a one-year membership to the NEIBA.

Door Prizes!

All interested beginning and experienced beekeepers are welcome!

Field Day Date Change

The NEIBA 2017 Field Day, originally scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 20, will now be held on Saturday, May 13. The Field Day will be held at Buskirk Engineering near Ossian, Indiana. Our guest speaker will be Kathleen Prough, Indiana State Apiary Inspector. More information including cost and a map to Buskirk Engineering will appear in the April and May newsletters. Field Day is always a great opportunity for new beekeepers to see inside the hives of an experienced beekeeper to help you understand what you should look for in your own hives. Mark this date on your calendar.

Beekeeping School

In addition to our Beginner's Night at our March 16 meeting, the NEIBA will also be sponsoring a Beekeeping School on Saturday, March 18.

The Beekeeping School will present the fundamentals of getting started in beekeeping and participants will assemble a hive to help them get a good start on their first season.

Registration is required for the Beekeeping School. Class size is limited. You do not have to be a member of the NEIBA to sign-up. See the insert in this newsletter for more information about this learning opportunity. Helping people become good beekeepers is the purpose of our organization.

Welcome

The Northeastern Indiana Beekeepers Association welcomes new members:

David Mullins	Fort Wayne, IN
Vicki Rodkey	Butler, IN
Wayne Stafford	Fort Wayne, IN
Kirby Sink	Markle, IN
Kyle Heffinger	Fort Wayne, IN
Richard & Kim Balke	Churubusco, IN
David Cox	Berne, IN
Dan & Janelle Roach	Fort Wayne, IN
John Shoemaker II	Fort Wayne, IN
Ben Sordelet	Columbia City, IN

And returning member:

Bruce Johns	Fort Wayne, IN
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NEIBA Library

The NEIBA Library has many books and videos addressing different topics in beekeeping. This library is a great resource for our members. Library materials are available at our meetings. If you have any questions about the library, contact Mariah Russell at russellapiaries@gmail.com.

If you check out materials, please keep track of them and return them in a timely manner. Your attention to this will be greatly appreciated.

Anyone who has library materials checked out, please return them so that others may use them.

You may return materials at the March meeting.

NEIBA Membership Dues for 2017 are \$15.00 and are now due.

You can renew your membership by paying your dues at the meeting or by sending them to:

Dean Gerber, 1127 S 700 W - 1, Bluffton, IN 46714

If you are mailing your dues, please use the Membership Application in this newsletter.



Beekeeping Supplies

Buskirk Engineering Inc.

James I Wheeler IV

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260-223-7354

Call for an appointment or stop in at any of these times.

Store hours: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (M through F)
8:00 AM – Noon (Saturday)

Directions to location: St Rd 1 to 900 N
head East 4.25 miles on south side of the road

Swarm List

The Swarm List is a list of people in our organization who are willing to go out and pick up swarms when calls come in from the community. Ted Braun heads up the Swarm List for our club. When Ted is notified of a swarm, he will try to find a person on the list who is close to where the swarm is located. If that person is unable to respond, Ted will move to the next closest person on the list. Picking up swarms is a great way to increase your number of colonies for just the time and effort of collecting the swarm. It is also appreciated by the people who want the swarm removed. To have your name added to the Swarm List, contact **Ted Braun** at **(260) 625-3477**. Ted requests that along with your phone number you also leave your zip code to help him locate where you live.

Ted also keeps a list of people who are willing to do cut outs. A cut out is removing bees that have built a hive in a structure such as a garage, barn or house. Removing bees from a structure requires a certain amount of skill and experience. If you have done this type of bee removal before and would like to have your name added to the list, call Ted. If you would like to learn more about doing cut-outs, give Ted a call and he can give you more information and maybe put you in contact with someone who does this and would be willing to help you learn what is involved.

Thank you

Thanks to Mike Miller and Doug Cheek for their presentations at our February meeting. Mike's presentation on making mead was informative and entertaining.

Doug's presentation on beekeeping devices that we can make ourselves was interesting as usual. Doug is good at coming up with ways to make things at home to save money. We appreciate him sharing his ideas with us.

The Beekeepers of Indiana

The Beekeepers of Indiana (TBoI) is our state organization. Visit their webpage at www.indianabeekeeper.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/beekeepersofindiana/

First Pollen

As the weather warms, remember to watch for pollen being brought into your hives. Remember the date you first saw bees bringing pollen in. The question will be asked at our meetings until someone has seen pollen being brought in. We will record the earliest date for the year in our historical database. Last year bees were observed bringing pollen into a hive on February 20. We have been recording the first date that a member has observed pollen being brought into a hive for many years. Thanks for your help.

NEIBA Mentor List

The NEIBA Mentor List is a list of members who have volunteered to make themselves available to other, less experienced, beekeepers to help them out when they have questions or problems. The mentor may be able to help over the phone or, if needed, they may come to your location to look at your hive to assess a problem. The idea behind the mentoring program is to help you increase your knowledge of beekeeping and become more proficient as a beekeeper. Remember, the mentor is there to help you when you have questions or problems. You, as a beekeeper, are responsible to absorb the knowledge that the mentor provides and use it to improve your skills. You can find the list of mentors on the NEIBA homepage at www.neiba.info. Finding a mentor who is in your area makes it easier for them to help if they need to visit your hive.

If you are a beekeeper who has some experience and would be willing to mentor newer members who need help, you can have your name added to the mentor list by contacting Harry Jones at 715-1453 or 637-1453.

You do not need to be a beekeeping expert to be a mentor, you just need a little experience and a willingness to help others. If you do not have the answer to a particular question, just knowing where to look or who to ask to find the answer will be a great help to the mentee.

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Minutes of the NEIBA February Meeting

The meeting was opened up with Prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance. This year the Field Day will be held at Buskirk engineering, thank you to James Wheeler for hosting again. The September meeting is being moved back a week to 28th. The Dues are being increased to \$15, which will allow for more speakers. Treasurer's report: \$5872.28 total. March 18th will be the date for the Beginner Bee school, there are still 17 spots open. The Intermediate Bee school is on March 11th, it is \$45, and taught by Mike Miller. Contact Ted Braun to be added to the swarm list sign up. Home and Garden Show is March 2nd thru the 5th, sign up to help, 3 hour shifts. Bridgette McCue, secretary,

NEIBA Newsletter Online

You can now access this newsletter on the NEIBA website at www.neiba.info. On the home page click the newsletter tab and you will be taken to a page with links to the current and previous newsletters.

Beekeeping Periodicals

There are two magazines dedicated to beekeeping, the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture. Both magazines are published monthly. To obtain order forms, contact Dean Gerber: phone (260) 565-3773 or email djgerber@adamswells.com. The forms are also available at the registration table at the meetings.

American Bee Journal Regular price
Hardcopy: 1yr=\$28.00, 2yrs=\$53.00, 3yrs=\$75.00
Discounted price thru NEIBA

(You must use the form to receive the discount)
Hardcopy: 1yr=\$23.80, 2yrs=\$45.05, 3yrs=\$63.75

Bee Culture
Hardcopy 1yr \$25, 2yrs \$48, 3yrs \$69 Digital 1yr \$15

You can also subscribe to these magazines online.

www.americanbeejournal.com

(Online, ABJ also offers a digital edition)

Digital: 3 months \$3.99, 1 yr \$16.00

www.beeculture.com

Both magazines also have an app that lets you access their digital versions on your tablet or phone.

Honey Bee Facts

- Approximately one third of all the food Americans eat is directly or indirectly derived from honey bee pollination. Some crops pollinated are cucumbers, almonds, carrot seed, melons, apricots, cherries, pears, apples, prunes, plums, pluots, seed alfalfa, cantaloupe, seed onions, avocados, kiwi, blueberries, cranberries, etc.
- There are three members of a honey bee colony:
 - **Queen** - mother to all the bees in the colony; she is a fertile female.
 - **Worker** - an infertile female that performs the labor tasks of the colony, including feed preparation, guarding the hive, feeding the queens, drones and brood, and heating and cooling the hive.
 - **Drone** - the male that starts out as an unfertilized egg. Its only purpose in the colony is to mate with a virgin queen. They live to mate with the queen, but not more than one in a thousand get the opportunity to mate.
- On average, a worker bee in the summer lasts six to eight weeks. Their most common cause of death is wearing their wings out. During that six to eight-week period, their average honey production is 1/12 of a teaspoon. In that short lifetime, they fly the equivalent of 1 1/2 times the circumference of the earth.
- The peak population of a colony of honeybees is usually at mid-summer (after spring buildup) and results in 60,000 to 80,000 bees per colony. A good, prolific queen can lay up to 3,000 eggs per day.
- When a queen is five to six days old, she is ready to mate. She puts out a pheromone scent to attract the males and takes off in the air. The males from miles around smell the scent and instantly volunteer in the mating chase, which is performed in the air.

5 Frame Nucs For sale

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Packages and Nucs

As another season of beekeeping begins, many of us will be buying bees. Whether you are new to beekeeping and starting your first hives or are an established beekeeper replacing winter losses or just expanding your operation, buying bees and getting new colonies established is a rite of Spring. When buying bees to start a new hive there are basically two options available, Packages and Nucs. Package bees are produced in the warmer southern states like Georgia, Louisiana, Texas and California, and shipped north in the Spring. With packages, you can get your colonies started earlier in the Spring. Packages are shipped to this area as early as late March. The packages most commonly used in this area to start colonies contain three pounds of bees and a fertilized queen that is



ready to lay eggs. The picture at right shows a three-pound package of bees. As you can see, the package is basically a box with a wooden frame and screen sides. A can of sugar syrup is placed in the package to feed the bees during shipment. The queen is in a separate cage that is suspended next to the can and the bees cluster around the can and the queen. Once the package is received, the bees should be placed in the hive as soon as possible. There are many books and online sources that explain various methods for installing a package of bees into a hive. The following

is not meant as a tutorial but just a basic overview of the steps involved. The picture at left shows the package with the syrup can removed and the queen cage being pulled from the package. Once the package is opened and the syrup can and queen cage are removed, the bees are poured into the waiting hive as shown in the picture at right. Once the bees have been poured into the hive, it is time to introduce the queen into the hive. As mentioned above, the queen comes in a separate cage along with several



attendant bees. The queen cage with the queen and her attendants is shown in the picture at below. At one end of the queen cage there is a white substance referred to as queen candy. The queen candy can be seen at the far left of the cage. The candy is food for the queen and her attendants during shipment. A cork in the candy end of the cage is removed exposing the candy through a hole. The queen cage is then placed between two frames in the hive. The bees on the outside of the cage will start eating the candy eventually releasing the queen into the hive. The time it takes to



Queen and attendants in mailing cage

eat through the candy gives the bees in the hive a chance to spread the queen's pheromones and the queen is accepted by the workers. The hive needs to be checked after a few days to make sure the queen has been released. The colony will need to be fed sugar syrup until they start bringing in nectar. They should have a continuous supply of syrup as the queen starts laying and brood begins to build up to avoid a break in the brood cycle. Once the queen starts laying, it will be another twenty-one days until the first brood begins to emerge so the population will dip as bees die during this time.

The picture at right shows a nuc (short for nucleus colony), ready to be installed into a hive. A nucleus colony is usually made up of four or five frames of bees, brood, honey and a laying queen. It is basically a small functioning colony. Installing a nuc is somewhat easier than installing a package. The frames of the nuc are added to five or six frames in a hive body and the colony is ready. As with package bees, you need to make sure the nuc has adequate food available. Nucs are usually not available as early in the Spring as packages. However, the nucleus colony is already established and contains brood which helps make up for the later start compared with a package. It also avoids the dip in population experienced with a package during the initial period before brood starts to emerge. With a package, there is always a chance that the queen will not be accepted by the colony. With the nuc, the queen has already been accepted by the colony. A disadvantage of a nuc is that it usually costs about fifty percent more than a package.



ackages or Nucs? As with everything in beekeeping, there are always varied opinions on which is best. You can talk with other beekeepers and listen to what their experience has been and what their reasoning is for their particular way of doing things, but ultimately, the decision is yours.



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HAS 2017

The Heartland Apicultural Society will hold its annual conference July 13-15, 2017 at The University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. To get more information as it becomes available, visit the HAS website at www.heartlandbees.org. The HAS conference features some of the best and most knowledgeable speakers in beekeeping. The numerous breakout sessions cover many facets of beekeeping. If you would like to know more about HAS, talk with NEIBA member Duane Rekeweg.

Honey Citrus Glazed Carrots

from the National Honey Board

Ingredients

1 Tablespoon - butter or margarine
4 cups - sliced carrots
1/4 cup - honey
1/2 cup - chicken broth
1/2 cup - orange juice
1/2 teaspoon - minced orange zest
1 teaspoon - salt
1/4 teaspoon - pepper

Directions

In large skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add carrots and sauté for several minutes. Add honey, broth, orange juice and orange zest. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until carrots are cooked and liquid is thick. Season with salt and pepper.

Copyright 2017, National Honey Board. All Rights Reserved.
For more recipes go to www.honey.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NORTHEASTERN INDIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

(If you are renewing your membership and your information has not changed,
just fill in your name)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Dues are \$15 per year

Please check one: I am renewing my membership _____

I am a new member _____

Newsletter delivery preference: Email _____ Paper copy _____ Both _____

Make all checks payable to NEIBA, send to:
Dean Gerber, 1127 S 700 W - 1, Bluffton, IN 46714

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Submit news items to the Editor by the first of the month.

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Association?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternIndianaBeekeepersAssociation?fref=ts)

Advertise in this newsletter.
Cost is \$5.00 per issue.

Visit the Northeastern Indiana Beekeepers Association on the web at www.neiba.info

Northeastern Indiana Beekeeper Letter
Dean Gerber, Treasurer
1127 S 700 W - 1
Bluffton, IN 46714

NORTHEASTERN INDIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSN.

Presents:

Beekeeping School

Saturday March 18, 8 AM to 4 PM

Classic Café

4832 Hillegas Road

Fort Wayne IN 46818

COST \$125.00

Price includes: instruction, hive box, bottom board, inner lid, outer lid, frames, foundation, hive tool, beginner's book, lunch, catalogs and one year membership to the Northeastern Indiana Beekeepers Association

Class is taught by experienced beekeepers who explain how to keep honey bees. Assembly and use of beekeeping equipment will also be done.

Call 260-728-2613 for more information or to register. Registration and payment deadline is Wednesday, March 15.

Class size is limited.