

East Texas Beekeepers Association



November 2022

Just a reminder, we will NOT have a November ETBA meeting!

We will meet on December 1st and have our annual Honey Tasting Contest as well as elect new officers for 2023.

This link is to an interesting article that was sent to me by one of our members:

https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-3209350?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=KARANGA

As usual, Mr. Brantley has some words of wisdom for us.

Scroll down to the following page to read his article!

Hope to see you all in December!

President—Connie Collins
Vice-President—Joe Laws
Exec. Director/Reporter— Jim Biles
Treasurer—Jennifer Palmer
Secretary—Tish Kennedy
Member-at-Large—Matt Thomas
Program Director — Meagan Elzner
Newsletter Editor—Jenifer Babyak
Webmaster—Ken Wilkinson



Next Meeting

Dec 1st

United Methodist Church
405 West Main in Whitehouse
6:30 PM

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

by Stan Brantley



By the time November arrives, most of the bee yard work should be completed. Maybe one last mowing now will keep the grass in the area in good shape until the spring of 2023. This is also a good time to give thanks for all we received from our hard working insect, the Honey Bee.

It is not too late to do a mite check and apply mite strips if the count should be more than three mites per hundred bees in your sample. You should have weather that is warm enough to use the medicated strips and get them removed at the proper time without disturbing the cluster. Choose a warmer afternoon and do not disturb the cluster on a cold day.

For the new beekeeper, and maybe for a more experienced one also, I find it very helpful to have a small pair of needle nose pliers handy when it comes time to grab the top edge of the mite strip and remove it. Propolis can cause the strip to be pretty difficult to pull up from between the frames after forty-two days in the hive.

Be sure to install the entrance reducer if you have not already done so. If you delay too long or think the weather is too warm, you need to consider this – Next year when you begin to inspect the hive to get it ready for 2023, break the hive body brood chambers and tip the body on end so you can see the entrance end of the chambers. You will probably find a propolis formation the bees have constructed several inches back from the “front door” of the hive. This helps maintain the hive temperature and keep out the winter winds. For those individuals that make tincture of propolis, you can be assured this is pure propolis with no burr comb mixed into the collected matter.

You should also be aware the small hive beetle will, as a general rule, reduce their egg laying activity and will move into the empty cells in or near the main cluster of bees so they can stay warm for the winter. Do not be lulled into a false sense of complicity and add large pieces of pollen patty the bees cannot consume quickly enough to keep the SHB from placing eggs underneath. Researchers at the University of Florida suggest using two Beetle Jails per brood chamber and two in each super for hives having an excessive amount of beetles present. They suggest apple cider vinegar for the attractant and vegetable oil or mineral oil or soapy water in each of the end compartments.

Before the weather gets too cold, you need to determine the hive weight. Is the hive heavy enough with stores to get the colony into the next spring? If not, you need to be prepared to feed with sugar syrup. Do you need to make lots of sugar water at one time? Try this formula for a 1:1 mixture: Put 24 pounds of sugar in a 5 gallon bucket. Slowly add 3 gallons of HOT water. Stir while adding. Stir until the sugar is completely dissolved. For a small quantity of 2:1 mix, add 16 pounds of sugar to 1 gallon of BOILING water and stir until dissolved. Be cautious when adding Honey Bee Healthy or similar products to the mixture as this could make it smell so good that robbing of weak hives could be a problem. Small entrance reducers may help to prevent this from occurring.

If you use solid bottom boards, you should consider a system to provide ventilation for the colony during winter. I suggest rather than boring a one inch hole in a \$25 super or \$50 brood chamber, obtain the wooden yard sticks that big box hardware stores and lumber yards have available. Cut into two inch lengths and place them on the rim of the inner cover at each corner in the front of the hive. Placing the strips on the front edge of the inner cover will cause any rain to drain off the back of the hive and not down on the landing board.



Got Questions?

*Question & answer group will meet from 6:00-6:30 before the meeting.
Join us if you are a new beekeeper or just have beekeeping questions?
We'll try to get you some answers!*

