



SUDBURY DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



BEEKEEPERS HELPING BEEKEEPERS

B U Z Z W O R D

November 2023

our SDBA regular monthly meeting was held on October 18 2023, in the library of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School. Many questions were asked and many were answered but as usual, there were as many answers as there were individuals at the meeting.

HONEY CONTEST *Rules and Regulation were explained by Jo-Anne and bottles were distributed.*

***For the honey contest, the judging will take place during coffee break and the winners declared at the end of the meeting.*

FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

We have an updated presence on these sites but we still need people willing to help administer these two sites. If interested, send a Facebook request to Meghan.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551619900921>

Website

www.sudburybeekeepers.com

NEXT MEETING

We won't be having meetings in December, January or February. Our next get together will be in March of 2024. More information will follow, regarding the meeting, in the new year.

Q & A

What if my honey is not all capped?

**The shake test. Shake frames, with uncapped cells, if nectar/honey comes out- it's green honey.*

**Use a tent with a dehumidifier / fan*

**Leave in oven, with the light on, for a few days. (Wax will melt between 144-145 of./52°C)*

**Gather together all frames that are not capped and return to the bees.*

**Freeze so that it doesn't ferment and return to bees in the spring.*

***Use a refractometer to test the moisture content in your honey. A good guide is to aim between 16 and 18%. Below 17% no fermentation will occur. At 18% it could ferment if there are large amount of yeast present. If it does – it's a good opportunity to make mead.*

What if I forget to treat my bees (mites)?

**Oxalic acid vapour or drip*

Drizzle till November (after all the brood has emerged)

May need to do 3 treatments (4-5 days apart)

May or may not be effective

What if honey sticks in comb? *Probably caused by the dextrose crystallizing in the nectar.*

**Keep it and feed the bees next year*

**Crush all = may have a lot of filtering to do.*

**Put in dry Sauna (at 70C /157F the wax will melt)*

**Put in insulated box with light, as a heat source*

**Hot box with heater*

Do I need to feed in the fall/winter. *As always, there were as many answers as there were beekeepers.*

**Some beekeepers feed the bees 2:1 sugar water, in the fall, until they stop taking it. Feeding in the fall is to make sure they have enough food for the winter. Some beekeepers feed 1:1 in the spring as well as in the fall.*

**Eric – puts a newspaper in the hive with dry sugar*

**Marc - puts home made fondant patties in the hive*

**Julian - feeds sugar in the fall and then leaves them alone till April*

**Wayne * doesn't add any sugar cake*

**Jo-Anne - put a sugar cake (4 kg, with a dash of pink salt, Hive Alive, a few drops of Tea Tree Oil, and vinegar) and a 1 pound (500 gr) of pollen patty and checks them in April.*

**Otto - weighs his hives to see that they weigh 100 pounds and doesn't do anything till February. At this time he feeds 1:1 sugar water. If the bees take it, he will continue to feed.*

**Wayne - doesn't add sugar or sugar cakes.*

What to do with “wet” supers after extraction.

**feed back to bees to clean up*

**freeze to kill moth/caterpillar/insects/larvae*

How to store wet supers.

Close the bottom of the super, put 4 mothballs with chlorobenzene (mothballs from \$ Store – not all mothballs are created equal) and close top. The mothballs will not hurt your supers but will keep the wax moths away.

They may be kept in a cold shed or storage area. There are no moths when it is cold.

Tilt or no tilt of the bee hive.

Tilting the hive 5° helps the bees to clean up and water/humidity to drain. Ice build up inside a hive and wind-driven cold will kill the bees.

At an inside temperature of 41F /5C or lower, bees can't move their shivering muscles to generate the heat and stay warm.

Inner cover - closed or opened hole.

According to Otto, there should be a screened bottom board and a closed inner cover. This way the heat, caused by the bees vibrating their wings, (81-95F or 27-35 C) inside the hive, doesn't escape through the hole in the inner cover. Therefore, it is easier for the cluster to regulate the hive's inside temperature.

There was no discussion on "cleansing flight".

GUESTS PRESENTERS

We are always looking for someone whose knowledge would benefit our members, please let us know or have any new ideas for future meetings.

HOW TO MAKE BEESWAX WRAPS (to make reusable lunch bags, etc.)

You'll need:

- *100% Cotton material (choose any fun pattern you want)*
- *Beeswax*
- *Cheese grater*
- *Parchment paper*
- *iron*

Directions

1. *First wash the cotton material*
2. *Cut out the desired shape and size you want your wrap*
3. *Turn on iron to warm it up*
4. *Layout the parchment paper and put the material down on the parchment paper*
5. *Grate the beeswax onto the material. Don't be shy to add lots.*
6. *Put another piece of parchment paper on top of the material, sandwiching the material and the beeswax together*
7. *Iron the parchment paper to melt the wax into the material. Don't press too hard, squeezing the wax off the cotton. Take your time to allow the wax to melt into the cotton.*
8. *Let cool, add more wax and melt again if the material does not have the right amount of pliability.*
9. *You can use this technique to also repair or renew old wax wraps that no longer stick efficiently.*

If anyone has any other ideas on what to do with honey wax, let us know.

GOOD READ (for those cold evenings to come)

Beekeeping Love www.beekeepinglove.com *Top 8 Best Honey Refractometers for Beekeepers (2023)*

Bee Aware www.beeaware.org.au *Wax moth*

Carolina Honey www.carolinahoneybees.com *Wax moth*

Ontario Beekeepers Association www.ontaribee.com *Registering for 2024*

Dominion & Grimm www.dominiongrimm.ca *Honey jars & Equipment*

YouTube – How to Dry Wet Honey

(There are many videos of different methods of reducing moisture)

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