

Buzzword

October 31, 2024 Issue

Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!

Sudbury and District Beekeepers Association - 50 years!

SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com

After enjoying an unseasonably warm fall, we have had our first taste of winter! By now your hives should be treated for mites, fully fed and tucked in for winter.

Minutes of Oct 16, 2024 meeting

Welcome: Meghan Mitchell

Approval of September 2024 minutes:

- moved by Otto
- seconded by Justin - approved

Approval of Oct 16, 2024 Agenda:

- moved by Denise
- Seconded by Mark - approved

New business:

Honey contest: Jars were handed out for those wishing to participate in this year's honey contest! The samples will be judged at the **Nov 13*** meeting. The rules are as follows:

- fill to just above shoulder, below first thread
- should be clear, filtered with few bubbles
- moisture 17% or below
- Judged on taste and smell

Xmas Brunch:

Nov 24 Trevi Bar and Grill,

1837 Lasalle Blvd, Sudbury 11am

Tickets - \$25 (age 6-9 \$12.50, under 6 free)

Please RSVP before by Nov 17 by emailing Denise Zappel SDBA Treasurer. Tickets can be purchased by e-transfer to beesforfun64@gmail.com

This is the preferred method however if that is beyond your skill level, you can pay in person at the Nov 13 association meeting. We do need counts by the 17th.

Presentation: Feeding – Jo-Anne

fondant

Jo-Anne described her method of making fondant and the various methods of placing this on the hive. In the past this was placed on a screened board however last year she placed it directly on top of the frames on wax paper. Her basic recipe is sugar (approx 5 lbs mixed with 1.5 cups of water (about 6:1 by my math!)). She includes a splash vinegar (to inhibit microbial growth) as well as some hive alive, and a pinch Himalayan salt. These additives are nice to hives but a personal choice. The mixture is placed on wax paper and allowed to dry before placing on top frames.

Pollen patties

Providing pollen over the winter is not strictly necessary but can provide a boost to brood production in the spring before pollen sources are available. According to Jo-Anne, by some estimates hives need 4 to 5 lbs pollen to begin brood production. She places about 1lb pollen on top of frames with the fondant. One recipe quoted is found here at the [BC ministry of Agriculture](#)

Discussion on Feeding - Meghan/Justin

Winter feeding

Meghan and Justin discussed that they actually make sugar syrup available all winter to their bees at 1:1 mix. While not strictly necessary it gives them peace of mind but requires you to keep the jar insulated. To do this they cut out block of their foam insulation stacks and place a circular hole in it to accommodate the jar. This prevents freezing of the syrup. Some discussion of wrapping was started leading into Otto's discussion.

Discussion – Otto on wrapping / ventilation

Now is the time to get hives wrapped. Some people use bee cozys, while many others use styrofoam board, burlap, newspaper etc.

A typical cluster of bees is about 28 to 30C with the queen at the centre. Otto revisited one of his previous talks on ventilation. CO₂, water and heat are byproducts of the bees burning fuel to survive. Moisture will condense when it hits a cold surface so the most important thing is to **keep the tops of the hives well insulated** to avoid moisture dripping down onto the bees. Condensation is bad for a few reasons:

- ice formation can block CO₂ from escaping the hive
- can rob heat from bees
- can encourage mould growth

CO₂ is more dense than air so tends to accumulate at the bottom of hives. By keeping the lower entrance wide open, CO₂ has the best chance to escape. It was also thought that upper entrances should be sealed up to prevent heat loss.

Discussion – Otto Science North weak hive

Otto discussed a hive at science North that had a sudden drop in population in September. The mite count was quite high. It was suggested that perhaps the winter bees, being of different physiology might have been more susceptible to mite damage. Otto also demonstrated the temperate increase in the hive shortly after adding winter wrap.

Meeting adjourned around 8:45

Upcoming Meetings

*SPECIAL DATE CHANGE NOVEMBER MEETING

We are privileged to have **Yukon-based Etienne Tardif** from [North of Sixty Beekeeping](#) come to speak. To accommodate him, the meeting date has been moved to:

Wednesday Nov 13

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School Main Floor Library
Meet and Greet 6:30 pm
Meeting Start 7:00 pm

Topics: Agenda to Follow.

Help to keep us operating!

Memberships can be paid in person at the meeting to Denise Zappel SDBA Treasurer or by e-transfer to beesforfun64@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Seniors \$15
- Students \$15
- Individuals \$20
- Family \$25

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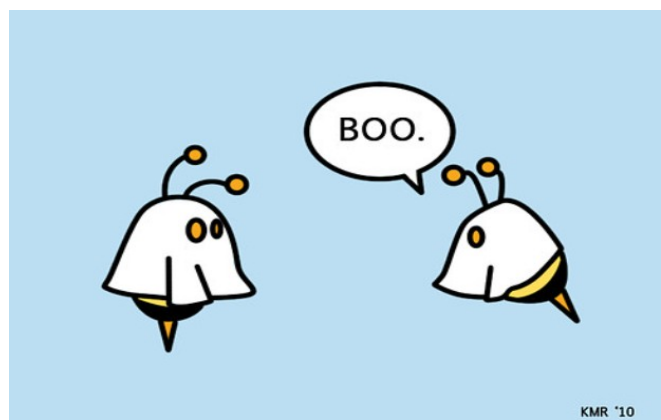
Sudbury and District Beekeepers Association.

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