

# Beezette

March 2020

Warren County Ohio Beekeepers  
Meeting at Lebanon Presbyterian Church  
123 East Street, Lebanon, OH 45036

<https://warren.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WarrenCountyBeekeepersAssociation>



## **NEXT MEETING**

Sunday March 8th at 1:30 p.m. at Lebanon Presbyterian Church. Gary Keuffer will be speaking on honey bee swarming.

Gary has been keeping bees for about 12 years and currently maintains 15 hives. For the past five years he has been the Coordinator of Education for the Brown County Beekeepers Association. He has spoken on a variety of topics to organizations from garden clubs to Boy Scout groups on the importance of all the pollinators to our ecosystem, especially the honeybees.

## **CLUB NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

If you haven't done, so please renew your WCOB membership for 2020. Member dues remain the same at \$20/individual and \$25/family. Registration is online this year. Please fill out the form at <https://warrencountybeekeepers.org/join-us-2/>. Payments are made via PayPal, but a PayPal account is not required.

Will you provide light refreshments/snacks for our club meeting one month? You can sign up at the meeting or we have quick and easy sign-ups on our website under the "Members" tab <https://warrencountybeekeepers.org/monthly-meeting-refreshments/>.

If you have a topic that you would like covered at our meetings, please let someone on the board know.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The honey bee collects pollen in baskets using hairs, rakes and presses!

When Miss. Worker visits a flower that gives pollen, the dust collects on the hairs that cover her body (and her eyes!). She uses her legs to work the grains to the inside of each of her hind legs. Then, using the pollen rake, she moves the pollen into a press that is located at the joint of the tibia and basitarsus (think of where our shin meets our foot, but they don't have ankles, per se). When Miss. Worker straightens her legs, it closes the press and forces the pollen upwards into the basket that is on the outside of the tibia. The basket is called a corbicula.

A sticky substance called pollenkitt (pollen kit or pollen coat) on the pollen grains helps them pack together. Once back in the hive, Miss. Worker uses the opposite hind leg to push the ball of pollen from the basket into a cell on the comb.

## WHAT TO DO DURING MARCH

- Register your apiary location/s with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The fee is \$5 per location regardless of the number of hives and is due by June 1, 2020. You can find a link to the registration form at [https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/forms/plnt\\_4201-002](https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/forms/plnt_4201-002). If you are trying to find it without using the link, it is found under Plant Health, Apiary Program, Registration.
- Early springtime is a critical time to be sure that your bees have plenty of in-hive access to sugar. It is not unusual for a colony that has done well all winter to starve in the spring. The queens are increasing brood production and the warm temperatures mean the colony will eat more. If the weather is cold and/or rainy, they may not be able to fly to find food.
- Finish building and painting your woodenware. It won't be long!
- For those with established hives, direct your anxiousness to get into your hives towards organizing your apiary woodenware and cleaning and readying your equipment. Then you will be ready to roll when the temps are right for that first inspection!
- Come to your WCOB club meeting on March 8th at 1:30 p.m. at Lebanon Presbyterian Church. See you there!

Do you have an announcement you want to include in the Beezette or a topic you'd like to hear covered at one of our meetings? Let us know! Contact Alice Craig at [warrencountyohiobeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:warrencountyohiobeekeepers@gmail.com) or find us on FB.

