

Beezette

December, 2022



Warren County Ohio Beekeepers
Meeting at Lebanon Presbyterian Church
123 East Street, Lebanon, OH 45036
www.warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org
www.facebook.com/groups/1769801953287281/
warrencountyohiobeekeepers@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING:

Our December meeting is the annual **Christmas Party**, on **Sunday December 11, 2022** at 1:00 at the Lebanon Presbyterian Church. Please come to share bee stories, and bring a dish (appetizer) to share. It's not too late to send your R.S.V.P.

Also at our December meeting, an election will be held for the offices of President, Vice-President and Director of Education.

NOVEMBER MEETING: The presentation at the November meeting was Winter Feeding for Bees, presented by Mr. Gary Keuffer, the Director of Education from the Brown County Beekeepers Association. Our thanks to Gary for an informative presentation. Gary also provided Feeding Basics and feeding recipe handouts.

Door prizes and winners for the November meeting:

Insulated frame: Rachael Ryckman
Sugar frame: Dian Danino
Spacing frame: Isaiah Nicely
Candle: Rob Brock
Mite Count Board: Mike Hutchinson
Thermometer: Isaac Clement
Honey dipper: Keith Mealy

MEMBERSHIP

- New members can apply at WarrenCountyOhioBeekeepers.org.
- If you have not done so already, renew your WCOB membership now for 2023. Member dues remain the same at \$20/individual and \$25/family. Registration is online. Fill out the form at: <https://warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org/join-or-renew-with-paypal/>
- Payments are made via PayPal, but a PayPal account is NOT required.

CLUB NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- January is the annual WCOB Bee School. Plans are underway and will be communicated when finalized. Please consider volunteering to help.
- **WEBSITE: Again Fully Functional**
We now have a fully functioning website with all of our old data, pictures, etc. Many thanks to the OSBA staff and to our **Webmaster, Rose DeJarnette**, for her tireless efforts in keeping our website operational.
- Club members with a minimum of three years of beekeeping experience looking to mentor are welcome to fill out a Mentor Form on the club website.
- For members looking for mentors, Go to www.warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org/mentors.
- Calling bee enthusiasts, many hands make light work; please consider getting involved with the club in a volunteer position. A great way to learn and share bee experiences.
- See the October Beezette for the latest published club financial statements.
- Below are the club positions and partial responsibilities. President, Vice-President and Director of Education are open seats for election at the December club meeting/party.

President – Convenes and presides over the meetings

Vice President – Functions in the absence of the president or at his/her request

Webmaster - Manages the web site activities including, but not limited to web design.

Treasurer – Keeps financial records, processes receipts and disbursements, reports at meetings.

Director of Education - Assists VP on monthly meetings educational topics/ speakers. Directs and is available for local fair educational booth. Touch base and supports beekeepers that have received club scholarship/ hive material/ Nucs (directs/helps to guide their monthly report to the club members).

Secretary – Keeps records and minutes of the meetings. Distributes meeting announcements. Publishes the Beezette.

- A more complete list of responsibilities for our board positions is documented and posted on the WCOB website under “Members” at www.warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org/members/officer-job-responsibilities/

CONTRIBUTING THOUGHTS FROM CURRENT PRESIDENT, GEOFF HULTGREN:

Hello fellow beekeepers!

In this, my final Beezette article as club president, I would like to reflect on my experience as president of the Warren County Ohio Beekeepers. The last two years have been a challenge; among the most complicated was the pandemic and shutdown caused problems that are still affecting the club. Prior to the shutdown the club's meetings were well attended, and our annual Beginners Bee school had record attendance. In 2021 our bee school and meetings were virtual. The club started to go live with our bee school and meetings; and the attendance is slowly returning to pre covid levels. I have been blessed with a superb, and enthusiastic team of officers; I owe any success to them.

Looking forward, I am planning to spend more time in the apiary, and I have enrolled in Paramedic School at Cincinnati State in May of 2023. I also intend to remain active in the bee club. My hope is that all our membership had a good year in the apiary, and like me are looking forward to an amazing 2023!

Merry Christmas!! Geoff

Fellow WCOB Club Members:

The club officers would like to express our appreciation for all those that provided a response and feedback to the recent questionnaire. This survey summary points to the fact that we are thinking alike about the status quo, and gives the opportunity to communicate back to some questions club members have.

As you all recall, at the end of 2021, we were just beginning to pull out of the pandemic. As a new beekeeper, and new club member, I began to attend meetings, not knowing any history to the club or any other beekeepers. From the little I know, the pandemic changed the makeup of the club markedly. The Beezette stopped and zoom meetings were sparsely attended. (No fun, right?) Thanks to Geoff Hultgren (President), and Bea Woodall (Vice President) for stepping up to their positions. Support continued from past-president Paul Dorger and past-treasurer Keith Mealy as well.

Communication and support is critical to the club going forward. It's joint effort and involvement that will allow the club to flourish and meet our common desire: to raise healthy productive bee hives.

Please continue to read some of the feedback and responses summarized below.

Respectfully,
Pat Miller
WCOB Secretary

CLUB MEMBER FEEDBACK

No need for doorprizes

Questioning the fact that we have no treasurer's report or minutes in the meeting. How do people know how the club stands without those?

Record the presentations or the powerpoint the presenter used, and post them to your website. I learn more listening instead of trying to write notes on the specifics during the presentation, but I want the specifics later.

Audio system. Hearing is sometimes difficult.

Get better speakers. Stop inviting the same people over and over again. There are dynamic, interesting speakers....you just have to spend a little time and contact them.

Do you think Social time allows new beekeepers an opportunity to interact with more experienced beekeepers

As more experienced Beekeepers, I find us reaching out far and wide for more advanced Educational programming. Perhaps others do this too?

CLUB INFORMATION RESPONSE

Door-prizes were initiated to encourage attendance to the meeting, and support conversation and ideas around some of the items.

The treasurers report (P&L and Balance Sheet) was added to the Beezette in June, July and August. It was decided at that time to go to a quarterly posting; some months, there was no change to the report and to keep the Beezette from being too long. Board meeting minutes are posted on the website.

It may be possible to post power points provided by the presenter. This will be something to follow up.

Along with the change to the meeting day, the new location may have a better sound system.

Director of Education is a new position, and certainly hope there is interest from the club members in stepping up to the opportunity. This is an all volunteer group; more hands make lighter work.

I am a new beekeeper. I attended the picnic, where some experienced beekeepers attended, I sat with them at the picnic table and talked. It was helpful. Also, I communicate and meet with mentors outside of the club meeting that have been very helpful and supportive.

No argument here. Keep in mind there is both in the club. Most presentations are geared to the "middle of the road" if you will. As the Director of Education position is filled new ideas and changes may address this concern more directly.

Quick tips & techniques, show and tell, and/or Q&A as part of meeting in addition to a presentation.

We would prefer Zoom (or something similar) meetings as opposed to in person. We have been unable to attend meetings due to a busier schedule.

I miss the introductions where it was easy to learn someone's name, and the snacks/mixer time to get to know other beekeepers. I also think giving folks the opportunity to explain a problem and seek advice was helpful. The quality of the education programs has definitely improved since bringing in paid speakers, but the academic vibe needs to be balanced with club camaraderie.

“Quick tips & techniques”and ‘show and tell” will be added to the responsibility of the Director of Education to research and provide. We welcome help, too.

Zoom was utilized during the pandemic, with extremely poor results. See the earlier thought of posting presentations on the website.

This sums up what the club officers have discussed, We anticipate changing the club meeting day, along with adding back in the snacks/mixer. Keep in mind that this goes against some concerns around the length of the meeting time.

Do you have an announcement to include in the Beezette, or a topic you'd like to hear covered at one of our meetings? Do you have ideas to benefit our club members and our bees? Let us know at the next meeting, or reach out to warrencountyohiobeekeepers@gmail.com or find us on FB.

