

# Beezette

February 2023



Warren County Ohio Beekeepers  
Meeting at Lebanon Presbyterian Church  
123 East Street, Lebanon, OH 45036  
[www.warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org](http://www.warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org)  
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## **NEXT MEETING:**

Our next meeting is Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 1:30, and will meet at the Lebanon Presbyterian Church.

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Meeting sign-in:   | <u>1:20-1:30</u> |
| Speaker Introduction & Presentation:                       | <u>1:30-2:15</u> |
| Questions:   | <u>2:15-2:30</u> |
| Club Member Demonstration & What To Do in the month ahead: | <u>2:30-2:45</u> |
| Social (Door prizes & Snacks).                             | <u>2:45-3:05</u> |
| Business Meeting:  | <u>3:05-3:30</u> |

**At the February meeting,** Kevin and Liz Jones from Happbeeacres will be speaking to us on : Winter hive inspection, diagnosing causes of hive losses, winter feeding, and preparing for Spring.

You survived winter, whats next? Join us as we discuss evaluating hives during winter, diagnosing a dead hive, and preparing for new hives.

Feeding winter to spring, is it necessary? Best practices and timing.

Spring health and varroa mite evaluation. When to super, split and set out swarm traps. We will leave time for lots of questions.

From Kevin and Liz Jones:

“We own a bee supply store near Batavia with over 500 products in store, open year around. Feel free to place an order on our website

[www.HappBeeAcres.com](http://www.HappBeeAcres.com) and we are happy to bring orders with us.

Today, we maintain @125 colonies of honey bees and operate a bee keeping supply store & sell @150 nucs each year we create from our colonies. It all started from a hive in a dead tree that was cut down for a customer near their house. We had spent a couple of years researching honeybees so we were ready, so we thought. It was cold when we started working on the tree with a special lift and as the day warmed up, bees started flying from an opening. We removed the bees, placing them into an observation hive..... in our living room. We were able to tend to them over

winter and by spring, they grew quickly. News spread and others contacted us, "I have bees in my house" or tree, or camper, or tire. In that first year alone, we removed @ a dozen colonies. We created HappBee Acres since the bees were now happy to live in a place they would not be in danger of being killed. Pitfalls, there were plenty of them but with persistence, we continued.

A couple of years later, the number of colonies grew to 50+ and people began asking if they could purchase some wood equipment. Our wood products are made in Ohio by Amish and with the high quality, people kept returning for more. This continued and we realized the need in our community to help other beekeepers get the specialized equipment they needed to manage their colonies. From kids toys to 44 frame extractors, we do our best to keep things beekeepers need in stock. Today customers drive from central OH, IN, KY, and WV, and have shipped to over 40 states. We've accidentally created a large footprint that will hopefully have a lasting impact for generations to come. Honored to help so many people and the community, we love hearing success stories and wouldn't be here without them."

**JANUARY: There was no meeting in January.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- New members can apply at [WarrenCountyOhioBeekeepers.org](http://WarrenCountyOhioBeekeepers.org).
- Membership dues are due on January 1st of each year. 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 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](http://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.

## CLUB NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The 2023 Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper School is scheduled to be at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland, Ohio, on March 25, 2023. Registration cost is \$40.00. See the link for details and registration information:

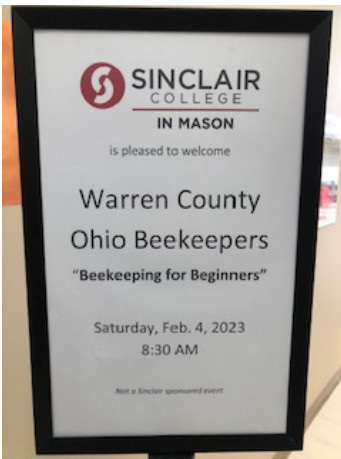
Registration is now open at <https://warren.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/2023-southwestern-ohio-beekeeper-school>

### Current List of WCOB Club Officers:

President – Paul Dorger  
Vice President – Bea Woodall  
Treasurer – Alan DeJarnette  
Web Manager - Rose DeJarnette  
Director of  
Education - Currently an open position.  
Secretary – Pat Miller

- 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/](http://www.warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org/members/officer-job-responsibilities/)
- There were sixty-four attendees at the Bee School held on Saturday, February 4th. The presentations were very informative, and we appreciate the wealth of knowledge shared from the following presenters:

**Suzanne Geisler.....Honeybees Throughout the Year**  
**Kathlene Applegate.....Hive Placement for Harmony, Health and Honey**  
**Gary Keuffer.....Honey Bee Nutrition**  
**John Favaron.....Installing Packages, Nucs & Swarms**  
**Joe Hahn.....Pest Management**  
**Keith Mealy.....Woodenware**



Door prize donations were provided by Blue Sky Bee Supply, Shine Orthodontics and Warren County Ohio Beekeepers Club and members.

- Door prizes winners from the Bee School were:
  - Scott Adkins.....8 frame mouse guard
  - Kari Bruce.....10 frame mouse guard
  - Denise Childs.....Shine Orthodontics gift bag
  - Elliott Denlinger.....Shine Orthodontics gift bag
  - Mason Flannery.....Bees wax

- Bill Harvey.....hive tool
  - Vicki Perlman.....multi hive tool
  - Doug Pick.....Shine Orthodontics gift bag
  - Angela Reichelderfer.....Beekeeping for Dummies book
  - Sheena Zorb.....mite trap
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- The Beekeepers Calendar for February:
    - Check food reserves.
    - Feed the colony if low on capped honey.
    - Check the hive entrance for blockage (snow, debris)
  - Monitor the hive entrance. Gently brush off any dead bees or snow that blocks the entrance. Don't disturb the bees inside.
  - Make sure the bees have enough food. The late winter and early spring are especially hazardous because during this time colonies can die of starvation. Hopefully in the autumn you provided emergency food stores in the form of a pollen patty and sugar fondant.
  - Late in the winter, on a nice, mild day when there is no wind and bees are flying, take a quick peek inside your hive. It's best not to remove any frames. Just have a look-see under the cover. Do you see bees? They still should be in a cluster in the upper deep. Are they okay? If you don't notice any sealed honey in the top frames, you may need to begin some emergency syrup feeding. But remember that once you start feeding, you cannot stop until the bees are bringing in their own pollen and nectar.
  - Clean, repair, and store your equipment for the winter.
  - Attend bee club meetings and read all those back issues fo your favorite bee journals,
  - Order package bees and equipment,(if needed) from a reputable supplier. Don't wait too late to place your order: bees sell out quickly as spring approaches
  - Referenced from "Beekeeping for dummies by Howland Blackiston.

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](mailto:warrencountyohiobeekeepers@gmail.com) or find us on FB.

