

# CCBA NEWS

Regular meeting is 3rd Wednesday of month at 6:30 pm \*\*

## Clark County Indiana Fairgrounds Food Building

### Officers

President:  
Mike Whisman  
[mwhisman@ups.com](mailto:mwhisman@ups.com)

Vice President:  
Dale Graf  
502-649-8057  
[dale@dcexc.com](mailto:dale@dcexc.com)

Secretary:  
Ken Peters  
502-558-5940  
[knla@mac.com](mailto:knla@mac.com)

Treasurer:  
Leigh Ann Peters  
502-541-2113  
[indyannie@mac.com](mailto:indyannie@mac.com)

Social Media:  
Lisa Hamrick  
425-315-2238  
[colormemod@gmail.com](mailto:colormemod@gmail.com)

Advisors:  
Eddie L. Eve 812-989-7695  
Angie Williams 812-989-7695

Coordinator:  
Simon Kafari  
Purdue Extension Educator  
812-256-4591  
[skafari@purdue.edu](mailto:skafari@purdue.edu)

### Next meeting's agenda

June 21 @ 6:30 pm

Topic to be determined



## Meeting Minutes

24 members were present

After gathering at the usual meeting place, we drove over to the club's hive location. Dale began walking through hive inspections and installing nucs. Randy Lynch brought a nuc of his New Albany Bees. Also ready for installation was a nuc of the Purdue ankle biter bees.

After the installation of the two new nucs, a hive inspection of the older hive discovered one hive may have swarmed. Low bee count and several queen cells were found. As an experiment in splitting hives, a frame with some unhatched queen cells along with a couple of frames of honey and bees were placed into an empty nuc box. Reports on how this new hive turns out will be forthcoming.

The group was very generous in donations and we are much closer to opening our banking account and preparing for club expenditures.

## Notes from our President

**Hello all.** The Executive Committee thought that it may be useful to you to offer some information as you prepare for the delivery of your nucs or package bees. We hope that you will find this helpful. This information can be applied to those getting nucs or packages.

Your goal this year is to get your hives prepared for winter. There are always exceptions and there is a possibility of some honey. But winter survival should be your first priority.

The ideal position for a hive is morning sun, afternoon shade and a wind break for winter. I have hives in full sun with no apparent bad affect. It does seem that a hive in dappled shade tends to be more aggressive than you would normally expect. My biggest challenge has always been to get the bees to survive winter. For that reason, I suggest the hives be set in an area where the winter wind is broken as your highest priority. If that isn't available, try putting bales of straw close to, but not against, the hives in late fall – around Thanksgiving as a rule of thumb.

The next biggest issue I have is with varroa mites. Ask the person you are getting the bees from if you should treat for mites once your hive is set up. I would wait a week or so before treating a new hive just to give them time to calm down and get acclimated to their new home. Definitely do so in the fall. I have used an Oxalic Acid vaporizer on some hives and Api Var strips on others. NOT both at the same time on the same hive. Oxalic Acid is cheap and very affective. But it take four treatments one week apart to realize its full benefits. The mites lays eggs in the same cell as the bee and Oxalic Acid does not get into the cells. So you have to do four treatments every week to treat an entire generation of bees. Api Var is more expensive but it is easy to use and very affective. Each Api Var strip looks like a thin, milky wafer about 6 inches long. Place two in each hive body. Leave the Api Var in the hives for about two weeks and then remove. Effectiveness of Api Var is temperature dependent. In summary, read and follow directions carefully.

You can also get Small Hive Beetles in a hive. I have them in mine, but it doesn't seem to cause any damage, so I don't treat for the SHB.

**IMPORTANT:** Once you treat a hive don't put a honey super on until about two weeks after the last treatment or the wafers are removed so the medication doesn't get into your honey.

When you place the nuc or package in your brood box you will have 5-6 empty or drawn out frames. Make sure that the bees are actively working or drawn out 7-8 frames before adding a second brood box. Don't worry too much if late in the season the second brood box isn't full, you may consider over wintering with one brood box. I have successfully done so and nothing special needs to be done to a single brood box going into winter as opposed to two brood boxes.

I am using screened bottom boards, but am in the process of switching back to solid ones. The thought for a screen bottom board was that when a mite dropped through the hive and onto the ground, they couldn't get back into the hive. Some beekeepers are thinking that the extra cost of a screened bottom board isn't justified for mite control. There just aren't that many

mites clumsy enough to fall out of the hive. Others think that during winter a screened bottom board makes it more difficult for the bees to regulate the hive temperature. The screen bottom board should have a removable plastic insert to reduce air flow in the winter. So, try them both and see what happens when you do a mite count. We can talk about doing mite counts in the early fall.

When you set your hives up, feed them with 1:1 sugar syrup from the bucket feeder or a shallow pan at a distance where one hive won't start robbing from another. You can set it up 15-20 yards away for the bees. This is where beekeeping becomes more of an art rather than science. The syrup will allow the bees to draw comb out faster as well as provide nutrition while they get themselves established. Place a lot of rocks in the open container so the bees can stand on something and not drown. Don't worry if the bees don't take the syrup, this is usually an indication that they are getting real nectar and are skipping the syrup. Clean up the bucket and store it until time for fall feeding.

Once you get some experience, feel free to try new things and see what works best for you. Personally, that is one of the most interesting thing about beekeeping – continuous learning.