

President's Letter January 14, 2021

Hello to All,

Winter drags on and so far, 2021 is no better. Even the bees seem to be struggling. I have received reports from beekeepers that they are losing hives to starvation. I suggest that you check the condition of your colonies to ascertain the status of honey stores. If in doubt, feed, feed, feed. Fondant, sugar candy blocks, or even granulated sugar works, but do not let them run out of food.

Even though we have not been able to meet, I have been working behind the scenes. I am still taking orders from members until January 31 for packages (\$139 + \$5 for a marked queen) and nucs (\$175). Beyond that date, we will be unable to order any more. Because we are not presenting a novice program this year, I am not ordering a surplus of colonies. Regarding the novice program, we have been invited to participate in Ohio State Beekeepers' Zoom program at no cost to our members. If you are not a member and wish to participate you can simply join the club to become eligible. I have posted information about it on the Facebook page and also on the tristatebeekeepers.com website. It appears to be a quality production and I can take reservations until January 31.

On the state level, I am afraid the spring conference will again be a Zoom venue, but we are going to offer in person testing for the Master Beekeeping Program on Saturday, May 15 in Fairmont, WV. I encourage you to engage in the program. You can find it described in detail on the website. The process offers you the opportunity to sharpen your skills as a beekeeper while also receiving recognition for your accomplishments.

Finally, with the unknown future, we have been unable to schedule in person club meetings but hope to resume sometime this spring. In the meantime, in an attempt to define our club membership, we have decided to collect dues by mail. I ask you to send a check for \$15 for an individual or household made out to Tri-State Beekeepers to John Welty, Treasurer, 3 Hearthside Drive, Wheeling, WV 26003. Please identify whom the membership includes. Of the \$15, \$9 goes to Tri-State and \$6 is paid to the West Virginia Beekeepers Association as your annual state dues. Once we can resume meetings, we will then be able to focus on members for notices and offers.

I appreciate your patience in remaining with the club and hope to make the coming months and meetings rewarding. In the meantime, stay healthy and happy, and go out and check your colonies.

With best wishes,
Steve