

President's Letter May 26, 2021

Hello to All,

In recent meetings our ranks are growing as we are finally able to get back together. I am thrilled to see the number of members who have remained active in beekeeping and choose to continue affiliation with the club. I admire you for your dedication.

Many of you however have little or no experience as a beekeeper and find yourselves overwhelmed with an onslaught of new information. In an attempt to help you through your introduction to beekeeping, we have arranged to have an open hive demonstration at the Good Zoo at 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 12 for those who have little experience in working with a colony as well as those of you who were in the novice beekeeping class of 2020 that was prematurely ended without an open hive experience. In an attempt to arrange the site and plan the program, I ask that you RSVP to me at tristatebees@gmail.com or call 304-242-9867 by June 4. This event is not for beekeepers that have any experience in managing your colonies for we will present a Beekeeping 102 level program for you later in the year. For now we are inviting only members who have not seen the inside of the hive, those who have less than one year of experience, or those from the 2020 novice class. Please let me know if you plan to attend and we promise to offer a rewarding encounter.

Steve

President's Letter May 13, 2021

Hello to All,

It is hard to imagine that nearly a month has passed since our last meeting. I am writing to remind you of the next club meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 pm. We will again be meeting in the theater at the Good Zoo Building in Oglebay Park. A program on Nucs and Splits will be provided by Shanda King, the WV Chief Apiary Inspector. In addition, following our discussion at the last meeting, a basket will be available to accept contributions to the fund to provide beekeeping equipment for the inmates' beekeeping club at the Belmont Correctional Facility. We have already provided two nucs to them and have ordered an assortment of requested items for the program.

This meeting will be your last opportunity to pay your \$15 annual dues to the Tri-State Beekeepers Club before we clear our mailing list of inactive individuals.

Please plan to attend to share in the camaraderie and to learn more about keeping your bees. I will see you there.

Steve

President's Letter March 31, 2021

Hello to All,

I hope all of you are well and still keeping honey bees for it has been far too long since our last actual meeting. November 21, 2019 to be exact. Sooooo, how about a real live meeting? The Good Zoo will allow us to meet on Thursday, April 15 at the regular time of 6:30 pm. We are permitted to use the traditional meeting room in the lower level of the Zoo building if our number does not exceed 25 and if there are more of us (I hope, I hope) we can use the theater. We are also permitted to continue the practice of enjoying snacks following the meeting so please feel free to bring something to share. Masks are still required.

The presentation for the evening will be Swarm Control which is perfectly timed for the season. The meeting will also be your last chance to pay the 2021 dues before we refine our current extensive mailing list to members only.

To allow us to properly prepare the meeting room, the event has an RSVP if you plan to attend by emailing us at tristatebees@gmail.com or calling me at 304-242-9867. Please do not simply reply to this email to register. I have attached directions to the Good Zoo Building for those of you who are new to our club.

Please plan to attend to allow us to get back on track and restore some form of normal. It will be wonderful to again see old friends and to welcome new members. I very much look forward to seeing everyone again.

Steve

President's Letter January 24, 2021

Hello to All,

Just a few reminders:

1. The last day to register for the Ohio State Novice program is January 31. This program is made available to us by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. There is no charge for it, and it can serve as an introduction for new beekeepers or a review for more experienced individuals. Zoom presentations will be given on the first Saturday morning of each month for 12 months. Sessions will be recorded so you can view them at your convenience. You can register by sending your name, email address, phone number, and mailing address to me at tristatebees@gmail.com.
2. The last day to order bees (\$139/package +\$5 for a marked queen and \$175/nuc) is January 31.
3. This is the time of the year to use the oxalic acid vaporizer. The club's unit can be obtained from me at tristatebees@gmail.com

4. We are now collecting 2021 dues by mail. It is important that you send in your dues for we use our membership list to stay in contact with beekeepers. Those who are not registered as members may not continue to receive email messages from the Tri-State Beekeepers. Dues are \$15/year with \$6 used to enroll you in the WV Beekeepers Association and \$9 going to Tri-State Beekeepers. Please make out the \$15 check to Tri-State Beekeepers and send it to our treasurer at:
John Welty
3 Hearthside Drive
Wheeling, WV 26003
5. Reservations for the WVBA January monthly lecture series have all been taken. I will notify you of the February program when I have information.
6. **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** check your bees. I am receiving several reports of colony loss due to starvation. Even though it is early in the year to consider that, very poor honey stores from last fall are presenting a real problem.

As I have more information on events and an eventual in person club meeting I will pass it on to you. In the meantime, don't give up. Better days lay ahead!!

Steve

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

President's Letter August 30, 2020

Hello to All,

We are back! We are back!! Kinda... With the help of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, of which we are an affiliate member, we are able to provide a virtual meeting and presentation on Thursday, September 17 at the usual 6:30 pm time. We will begin with a few brief comments regarding club items, and then receive a real time presentation from our longtime friend Bob Hooker. Bob is always very entertaining and will be speaking on the very timely topic of overwintering colonies. Once OSBA has the program codes I will forward them to you so that you can actively participate. If the program goes well, we will try to arrange subsequent Zoom presentations on our own.

While not meeting in person, I see this as a start that will lead to the eventual resumption of monthly meetings at the Good Zoo. Please plan to attend and to participate as we return our club to normal life. Once I have more information I will be in touch.

Steve

President's Letter August 8, 2019

Hello to All,

August already. Where has it gone? But there is good news...the knotweed bloom is just starting after a hard dearth. All of my hives are very light and for the first time in quite a while I fed this summer. But the end is in sight. And there is more!! For those of you using formic acid, the window may be opening on Wednesday with at least twelve consecutive days forecasted with temperatures at or below 85°. Perfect timing!!

Next, let me call your attention to the West Virginia Beekeepers Association Fall Conference in Fairmont scheduled for August 23-24 with guest speakers Dr. Jamie Ellis and Dwight Wells in addition to 18 breakout sessions to choose from. You can register online at wvbeekeepers.org and early registration is open until August 19. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to expand your skills in sustainable beekeeping.

And now for the upcoming fall schedule. Save the date of WEDNESDAY, August 21 for the annual picnic. John will send out a notice with an RSVP so that we can accurately order the chicken. As you remember, last spring I requested topics for speakers, you gave me topics, and we were able to fulfill the requests. We start with our long time friend John Grafton on Thursday, September 19 speaking about preparing hives for winter and over wintering colonies. Then, on Thursday, October 17, attorney Paul McKay will be speaking to us about the legal aspect of beekeeping including your liability as a beekeeper, beekeeping contracts, and product liability. I am sure that he will have valuable information that all of us can use. We con

President's letter January 19, 2019

Hello to All,

Winter lingers. As I write this they are calling for 6 inches of snow. Dark. Bleak. Miserable outside. What can I say? Better times have been promised. Tomorrow? At least by Monday...

BUT, things regarding the club are flying. Since our last meeting, in recognition for our involvement in supporting their bee club, we were presented with a check for \$930 from the inmates of the Belmont Correctional Facility which caught me completely off guard. What goes around has come around many times over. In turn, we have obtained the sound system for Oglebay at a price under the budgeted amount and will formally present it to the administration of the Good Zoo at the February meeting.

A full schedule of speakers has been lined up for the spring including a Saturday presentation as promised, and believe it or not, a second one in the works that has not yet fully fallen into

place. But so far, here is what we have to look forward to: February - Dr. Greg Polsinelli of Bethany College, speaking on the Mechanisms of Queen/Worker Differentiation; March - Mark Bedillion, a commercial beekeeper, outlining his management techniques; April - Denise Ellsworth from the Department of Entomology, Ohio State University, speaking on Native Pollinator Identification and Honey Bee Forage Sources; and May - Bob Hooker outlining queen rearing. On Saturday, May 18, we will host Carmen Conrad, certified Ohio State Beekeepers Association honey judge, presenting a one day program on preparing honey for competition and honey judging. Our novice classes begin in February 26 and will conclude with the open hive field day with Wade Stiltner, chief WV apiarist. If you know of anyone interested, we still have openings in the class. If that line-up doesn't contain something that interests you... well... never mind...

I am anxious to get started with the monthly meetings, and most anxious to get back into the bee yard. But for now must be content with just waiting. However, the bee catalogs are beginning to arrive and sustain me. I look forward to seeing all of you in February. Remember, dues will be collected at that meeting and orders will be taken for nucs and packages so get out into the yard and assess your needs.

Steve

President's letter, August 31, 2018

Hello to All,

We have just concluded a very successful WV Beekeepers Association Fall Conference in Fairmont last weekend. If you ever have the opportunity to hear Dr. Sam Ramsey from Beltsville, Maryland speak, take advantage of it. The man is dynamic, entertaining, and very knowledgeable. He is a must see speaker!!

Let me take this opportunity to update you on our fall activities. At your request, we are moving the start time of the monthly meetings to 6:30 pm to allow us to conclude at a more reasonable hour. I apologize to any that this may inconvenience, but the majority voted in favor of it at the summer picnic.

The fall lectures start with the first meeting on Thursday, September 20 with Paul Poling, the former WV Chief Apiary Inspector and owner of Mountain State Honey, one of the largest commercial operations in the state. Paul is going to speak on commercial beekeeping, but will also be available to field all questions. Paul is truly a Master in beekeeping and is the source of valuable information. You don't want to miss this presentation.

We meet again on October 18 with our friend Bob Hooker returning to give a program sponsored by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association expanding on splits and nuc building. Bob is always very entertaining and informative.

The November 15 meeting will find Mark Bedillion of Bedillion Honey Farm in Hickory, PA as our guest speaker. We have obtained nucs from Mark for the past two years. He will be sharing his very successful techniques in beekeeping.

The programs promise to be VERY informative with practical information that will help you as a beekeeper, whether experienced or just starting. The speakers coming are individuals who are much respected in the beekeeping community and will have a great deal to offer to us. Be sure to make each meeting and anticipating beekeepers' hungry for information and refreshments, consider bringing a snack.

See you in September!!!

Steve

President's Letter February 7, 2018

Hello to All,

Let me take this opportunity to remind you of the club meeting on Thursday, February 15 at the Zoo building. Wade Stiltner, the chief WV Apiary Inspector, will be talking to us about small hive beetles, a growing threat to our colonies.

At that meeting we will be taking 2018 membership dues of id="mce_marker"5. Also, we will be taking orders for bees. We again have 5 frame nucs available from Mark Bedillion at id="mce_marker"65 and the California 3# packages with a queen available at id="mce_marker"35. The suppliers are asking for the money up front, so payment must accompany your order. We are providing this as a service to active club members only, so if you have not attended a meeting since you last purchased bees, please consider searching elsewhere for your bees. This is not a community service.

Please plan to arrive early to get dues collection and bee ordering accomplished before the meeting begins at 7:00. We look forward to seeing all of you that evening.