

# Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association



November 2019

srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org

## Upcoming Events



- **Monday, December 2nd 6:30 pm**

### **Christmas Party!**

*Baldosser Farms*

*5393 Twp Rd. 78 Green Springs*

*Smoked pulled pork and sloppy joe sandwiches provided. Please bring a dish to share. There will also be a silent auction. If you have anything you'd like to donate as a raffle item, please bring it along!*

\*\*\* If anyone is having trouble finding the farm shop, please call Shana at 419-217-6626. Sometimes Google Maps says you have reached the destination at the end of the road. If you continue North on TR 78, you will see the large shop on the East side of the road! \*\*\*

Our executive board has been working hard preparing this gathering for us, we hope to see all of you there! **Don't forget to RSVP to Angel so we are sure to have a seat for you!**

## Meeting Recap

- Rich Brutsche would like to know what got you excited about beekeeping! He spends a lot of time out in the community spreading the word about bees and introducing beekeeping to others. He would love your insight on why you decided to become a beekeeper! Let's help him get others interested in saving our bees! Email him at [rbrutsche@neo.rr.com](mailto:rbrutsche@neo.rr.com)
- Thank you Tom for sharing your pollen patty knowledge and recipes! Very interesting learning about the different kind of patties for the different seasons. See the club website for recipes, under the Resource tab.
- As a club, we filled **408** honey bears that are being donated to area food banks. **THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!** Just a small part of our honey harvest is going to make a lot of families happy this holiday season!

## Honey Bee Trivia

**T or F: Dysentery is an infectious disease of adult honey bees that is commonly found in late winter/early spring.**

**False:** Dysentery is a non-infectious disorder of adult honey bees. While the condition can be aggravated by various infectious adult diseases, it normally occurs when the rectal contents of bees become about 30-40% of their total body weight. This is usually due to the accumulation of water, because there is too much water in the food the bees are consuming. This situation is most likely to occur during the winter when honey bees are unable to take regular cleansing flights.

**Chilled brood is found most often on the outer fringes of the brood nest.**

**True:** Chilled brood is found on the fringes rather than in the center where the cluster is concentrated. This condition often occurs in late winter/early spring when brood nests expand rapidly and there is a shortage of adult bees to cover all the brood.

The November issue of Bee Culture had an interesting article about changing out brood comb. As a fairly new beekeeper, this is something I have not given much thought to. The headline reads "The blacker it is, the worse it is." This obviously caught my attention because I always thought the bees loved darker comb, which is why you fill your swarm traps with old dark comb, right?

Research has shown that old comb, especially brood comb, contains significant levels of contaminants including pesticides, heavy metals, fungi, bacteria, and viruses. Any of these can be detrimental to a colony's wellbeing, leading to queen failure, sick brood or excessive colony losses.

Due to an accumulation of these material, along with fecal matter and silk left behind by emerging bees, the cell diameter in old, black comb can shrink. A University of Georgia study concluded that on average, colonies with new comb produced a greater area of brood, a greater area of sealed brood, and higher weight of individual young bees. Bees reared in old comb may weigh up to 19% less than bees reared in new comb!

Moral of the story: Colonies full of old, dark, heavy comb will have smaller bees and fewer of them. This may give you something to think about during the lull of winter. When taking inventory or getting ready for the spring flow, it may be a good idea to change out some of your brood comb!

To see the full article written by a commercial beek in Georgia, follow the link, or visit BeeCulture.com and search November's issue. Very interesting!

<https://www.beeeculture.com/why-comb-rotation-is-important/>

