

Ohio Beekeeping



The Newsletter of Ohio State Beekeepers Association

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2012

Our Guest Columnists:

John Grafton
Roy Hendrickson
Reed Johnson
Dan O'Callaghan
David Shetlar
William Starrett

A special interview with:

Barbara Bloetscher

The Tri-County Beekeeper's Association of Northern OH

will hold their **34th Annual Spring Beekeeping Workshop** on March 2-3, 2012 at the OARDC in Wooster. We will offer various educational classes geared for beginners to experienced beekeepers. There will also be workshops throughout the day for children as well as a hands-on room.

Some great new features are planned for this year's Spring Workshop:

Online Pre-Registration – Over 2700 invitations, email and hardcopy, will be sent out to beekeepers. Both invitations will offer a Website for attendees to pre-register. Mail-in registration will be available, but we hope everyone selects the convenient and secure *Web option*, to pre-register for the Workshop.

Additional Breakout Session – Replacing the Keynote Address are 7 additional morning breakout sessions. This gives attendees **28 workshops** to choose from throughout the day.

Queen Program – Due to many requests and the importance of locally raised queens, a queen rearing or study class will occur in each of the four sessions.

New Pollitorium Tour – Take a tour of the OSU Pollitorium. This facility offers information about various pollinators in nature.

What's a'Buzz

President's Column	2
Telling the Bees	7
Ohio Queen Initiative	8
OSBA Hall of Fame	10
Calendar of Events	20
Club Corner	21
Editor's Note	21

Workshop Topics Include:

- ◆ Queen Programs – (Evaluation of Queens, The Mechanics of Rearing, Cell Punch Method and Working with the Ohio Climate)
- ◆ Bees and Chemicals
- ◆ Nutritional Values of Pollen
- ◆ Beehive Chemistry (Honey)
- ◆ Handling Swarms,
- ◆ Odd Equipment Buried in the Patent Office
- ◆ Native Ohio Bee Plants
- ◆ Mead Making
- ◆ Sustainable Beekeeping
- ◆ and more...

With the above new features, the return of live music in the auditorium and the exciting workshop titles, it's easy to see that the 2012 Spring Workshop will be another great beekeeping event!

Renew your Membership
for 2012

Renewal form is
on page 23.

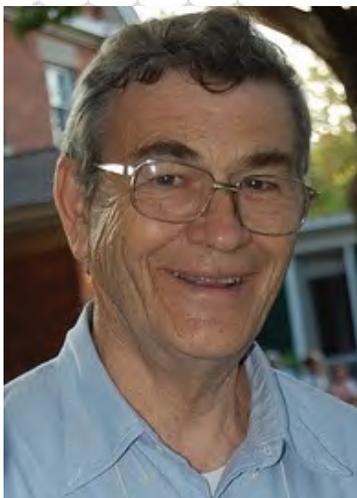
For more information:

TCBA's new website: www.TriCountyBeekeepers.org

email at: contactus@TriCountyBeekeepers.org

or give us a call; 330.801.1309

President's Letter



OSBA has always been special to me for over 20 years. Two terms as vice-president, three terms as treasurer, one as a board member, and as volunteer for a number of other projects such as the Ohio Queen Program. This program continues to be special to me along with moving the bee cottage that Walter Rothenbuhler had worked in at the OSU

bee yard when he arrived at OSU in the early 1960's to the OARDC campus in Wooster, Ohio. The cottage now is preserved and hopefully will continue the historical relationship beekeepers have had with OSU.

I was fortunate to have been born in a beekeeping family. I was raised in Western Ohio and still have close ties to that area. Now at 74, time seems to have rushed by very quickly. Looking back much has changed about the way beekeepers keep bees. I remember the endless sea of blooming yellow and white sweet clover in mid summer in Paulding County. As little as 20 years ago, I had nearly 600 colonies of bees and eagerly looked forward to the trips south to Georgia to shake packages and raise queens several months earlier than I could in Ohio. I also have seen the amount of honey produced by my bees continually decline year by year – in the Central Ohio area. Not unusual considering the fact that many bee yards I had are now green yards, crowded lots with two story houses, and lots and lots of blacktop. In fact, I drove through southern Delaware County several months ago, and could not get any bearing of where I was because the roads have changed, the farm houses are all gone as are the woods and fields my bees foraged for nectar and pollen.

I mention this because much is currently changing in Ohio; the budget crisis is changing the landscape at OSU (The Ohio State University) and ODA (Ohio Department of Agriculture). The Honey Standard Committee has no hope of success with the development of a Honey Standard at the present time. Therefore, we will let the committee lapse into dormancy until the

political climate is right to restore it.. The situation at ODA seems to have leveled out somewhat. I am assured that funding exists for the next two years for a part-time Apiary Person (Specialist?), but Ohio beekeepers deserve more. On the county level, a trend has developed of the withdrawing funding of bee inspectors. Those beekeepers that depend on apiary inspection service to get any assistance at all in those counties without county inspectors face a huge challenge.

I was successful in contacting Reed Johnson, the new OSU Professor of Entomology. I offered OSBA support for his program. We look forward to working with him.

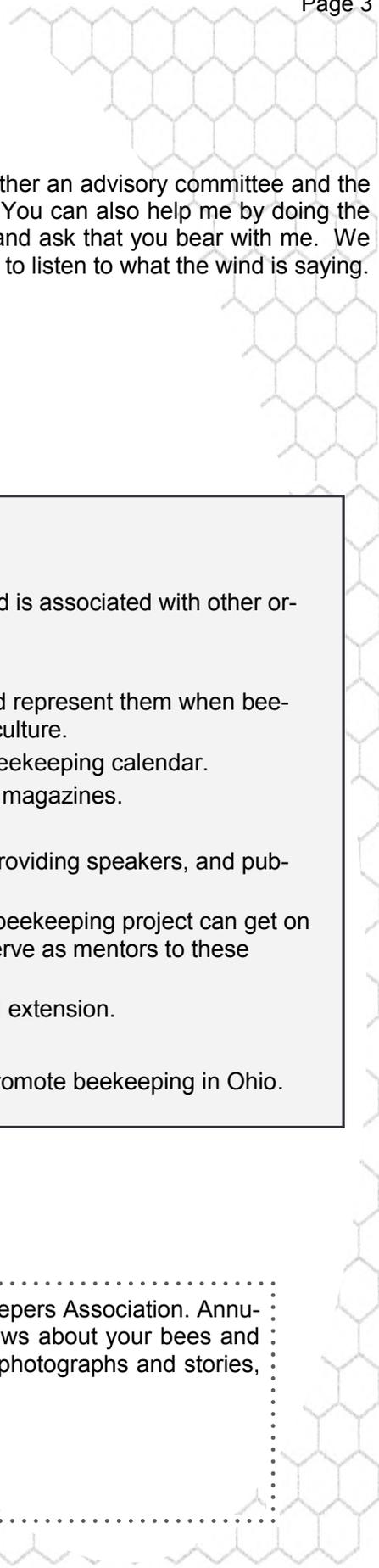
I have selected two individuals to serve us in a very important task; Terry Lieberman-Smith and Dwight Wells. Terry is the new Newsletter Editor. We are fortunate to have a skilled editor dedicated to helping Ohio Beekeepers. OSBA communication is important, and is often a topic in the discussion I have with the members when I share my vision of what can be done to help OSBA grow to meet the needs of our members. I have selected Dwight to head up the Ohio Queen Initiative. Dwight is currently visiting with a number of beekeepers seeking their advice and input on the queen program. Some of what Dwight is working on will feed into a future Master Beekeeper Program.

This is not a new idea. Ron Hoopes a past president of OSBA brought the subject up over five years ago. It was assigned to a committee, where it stayed. Without an OSU Honey Bee Extension person the time is ripe to initiate a program that will allow beekeepers to expand their skill, knowledge, and experience and rise to the challenge of meeting the requirements of the Master Beekeeper Program.

I wish to extend to Jim Tew and Sherry Ferrell a heartfelt thanks for what they have done and will continue to do for Ohio beekeepers. I will be asking the OSBA board to name them to honorary seats (non voting positions) on the new OSBA board along with Barb Bloetscher our state Apiarist. Reed Johnson will be recommended to the board as well if he wishes to participate.

Finally, my home phone number is 614-855-1656 and you are welcome to call me and share your opinions regarding the future direction of OSBA. I will also re-

(Continued on page 3)



President's Letter

(Continued from page 2)

spond to mail messages sent to: stahlmanapiaries@aol.com. I have put together an advisory committee and the message to them has been, "tell me what you think and don't sugar coat it." You can also help me by doing the same thing -- I may not agree with some suggestions but I will hear you out and ask that you bear with me. We need to work as a team and if I see I am walking against the wind, I am willing to listen to what the wind is saying.

November-30-2011
Dana Stahlman

OSBA Mission

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association serves beekeepers in Ohio and is associated with other organizations who have an interest in beekeeping.

- Provide our membership with current beekeeping information and represent them when beekeeping issues arise in Columbus and at the Department of Agriculture.
- Provide our membership with a quarterly newsletter and yearly beekeeping calendar.
- Provide our members with OSBA discounts to major beekeeping magazines.
- Provide two educational meeting a year (summer and fall).
- Support other beekeeping organizations in the state of Ohio by providing speakers, and publishing information about their activities in our newsletter.
- Support the 4-H project in Ohio. Any 4-H member working on a beekeeping project can get on our mailing list for our newsletter. Some OSBA members also serve as mentors to these young people.
- Support our Ohio State University bee programs — research and extension.

OSBA is a member of the Ohio Farm Bureau and works with them to promote beekeeping in Ohio.

.....
 : Ohio Beekeeping is the official publication of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. Annu- :
 : al subscriptions are included with membership in OSBA. Send news about your bees and :
 : your experiences, as well as your corrections, letters, comments, photographs and stories, :
 : interviews, and added requests to:
 : Terry Lieberman Smith, PO Box 24181, Dayton, OH 45424
 : Or e-mail: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com.
 :

Fall Meeting November 5, 2011

Ohio Department of Agriculture - Bromfield Building

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account

Balance as of June 10, 2011			\$14,627.16
Receipts June 10, 2011 - November 5, 2011		\$10,100.90	
Memberships	\$ 295.00		
Summer Meeting		1,165.00	
membership	\$440.00		
meeting	500.00		
Raffle	160.00		
donations	65.00		
Ohio Queen Bee Research			
donations		7,391.90	
J.T. Education Fund			
donations		1,249.00	
Expenses June 10, 2011 - November 5, 2011		\$ 3,392.22	
Summer Meeting		\$1,896.30	
Office		75.95	
Postage		243.95	
Honeyfest		127.98	
Memorial fund		74.79	
Banking fees		65.00	
Board meetings		105.00	
Dues		50.00	
Newsletter printing		75.00	
Retirement event		378.25	
EAS director		300.00	
Checkbook balance November 5, 2011			\$21,335.84
Encumbered Funds:			
Queen Project		\$ 210.20	
Ohio Queen Bee Research Project		7,937.00	
J.T. Educational Fund		2,299.00	
Total Encumbered Funds			\$10,446.20
CD			
Interest:	OSBA \$36.13	JT Fund \$29.56	
J.T.Fund	\$2,654.52		
OSBA	\$3,269.08		
Total CD			\$5,923.60

Specialty Crop Grant - An Overview

In April, 2010, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced the availability of funding through the USDA Specialty Crop Grants program. The ODA appeared to be supportive of a follow-up beekeeping project to the earlier successful Don Myers beekeeping Project. Though the application window was very narrow, the decision was made for OSBA to submit an application. OSBA choose the Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Council (Crossroads RC&D) to be the administrating agency for the proposal. The proposal was accepted and approved for \$43,681. The funding for ODA Specialty Crop Grants actually comes from the USDA and is channeled through the ODA. The application had three primary goals:

- 1) Develop and conduct two workshops for people interested in raising queens,
- 2) Conduct a survey of the 112 people who had taken beginner classes two years earlier through the Don Myers project,
- 3) Develop a web-based training program for beginning and intermediate beekeepers.

A secondary goal was for OSBA to hire a webmaster to redesign/rebuild the OSBA web site. This was accomplished early in the project and is proving to be a valuable asset to OSBA.

The committee began work on the planning of the various segments of the project. Then the tornado hit Wooster (Setback #1). Planning continued and in April 2011 a Queen Rearing Workshop was conducted in Piketon, followed by a second Queen Rearing Workshop held in May in Wooster. Those workshops were successful and resulted in about 100 individuals being trained in the skill of queen rearing. This was at a time when Crossroads RC&D learned that they were losing funding causing staff cuts and office closing. (Setback #2). The planning continued and the survey was conducted. A majority of the participants from the earlier project still are beekeepers and plan to continue with the endeavor. Then, Jim and Sherry retired (Setback #3) which triggered OSU to pull out of the project (Setback #4). Still we continue to work towards completing the project. In November the Crossroads RC&D board voted to disband due to the lack of funding (Setback #5).

We have about \$36,000 remaining at ODA. What do we do? Jim Tew and I met with ODA officials in November and decided the project could be completed if we could find an appropriate administrative agency.

John Grafton

The Ohio Produce Growers and Marketing Association (OPGMA) was suggested by ODA as a possible and acceptable group. Jim Tew, Dana Stahlman, and I met with their representatives along with Lori Panda from ODA on December 14th. There are still some votes to be taken; however, it appears that we will be back in business and with approval from USDA will be able to complete the project.

The following changes will be in place: OPGMA will be the administrative agent, OSBA will be the lead technical group and will host the information on their website, and Dr. James Tew will be an independent consultant/technical person for developing the training programs.

We are approximately 5—6 months behind where we had hoped to be at this time. We still hope to get something in place by late spring and be wrapped up by midsummer. This is a worthwhile project for Ohio beekeepers. The USDA, OSBA, and ODA continue to support the successful completion of this educational project.



Queen Right Colonies, Ltd.

The Beekeepers' Shop

A full line of beekeeping supplies. Package bees available at group rates. Extractors and bottling equipment. Bulk honey, wax and pollen. Beekeeping apparel. We sell hot dip paraffin treated equipment. It will add years of life to your woodenware at QRC exclusive prices. Look at our website for more information. We also have everything you need for your queen rearing program and feeding your bees.



Now taking orders for Quality California Package Bees for 2012 from the Apiaries of Ray Olivarez Honey Bee Farms. 2# and 3# packages available.

Visit ohbees.com

Queen Right Colonies, Ltd.

43655 State Route 162 • Spencer, OH 44275

440.647.2602 • FAX 440.647.0922

Email: qrcltd@zoominternet.net • www.queenrightcolonies.com

www.LorainCountyBeekeepers.org

Hours of Operation: March - Oct, M-F 10-6, Sat 10-2

Nov-Feb, M-Sat 10-2 • Closed Sundays & Holidays

Gift to OSBA

John Grafton

Several things happened during 2011 that effected OSBA, not the least of which was the retirements of Dr James Tew and Sherry Ferrell. These two individuals will be missed in a number of ways in the future as various projects are undertaken.

One "benefit" of their retirements though was that when John George and I met with OSU representatives concerning the future of beekeeping at OSU, we unexpectedly received a gift of the honey, containers, lids, labels, etc from the Bee Lab in Wooster. This was the inventory that Sherry used to conduct honey sales to raise funds for the lab.

The material was picked up from the lab the week before Jim and Sherry actually retired. The problem was

what to do with nine full drums and two partial drums of mostly crystallized honey. The decision was made to sell the honey "as is" and sell the other material at one of the OSBA meetings.

The honey was delivered to Deer Creek Honey Farms, London, Oh on Nov 4th and everything else was sold at auction on Nov 5th following the Fall OSBA meeting.

The honey, of various color and varieties, totaled 6169 pounds and netted \$10,487.30. The auction netted \$2016. Total \$12,503.30. This makes a nice gift and the general thought is to use it within OSBA for educational purposes.



Hello old friend.

Walter T. Kelley Co.

Serving the Beekeeper Since 1924.

kelleybees.com

800.233.2899

The advertisement features a close-up photograph of a honeybee on the right side, with its wings and striped abdomen clearly visible. On the left side, there is a faint, artistic illustration of a beekeeper wearing a hat and holding a tool, standing next to a large, stylized bee. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a subtle honeycomb pattern.

Telling the Bees

There is an old tradition among beekeepers to “Tell the Bees” whenever a change happens in the beekeeper’s family. If you Google “Telling the Bees” you will find a poem from the 1800’s about this subject. You will also find some history on the subject.

OSBA wants to recognize all beekeepers that have recently died. We will have an article in each OSBA Newsletters, and recognize them by “Telling the Bees” at the annual meetings.

All associations or individuals are asked to forward the name, home county of the beekeeper and the date of

death. Please include personal information such as how long they may have kept bees, any offices they may have held in beekeeping associations, etc.

Hopefully this will be some small way to recognize our fellow beekeepers as they pass on. It may also serve as notice of friends we have made when their passing comes.

Please appoint someone in your association to notify an OSBA officer when a loss occurs so that we can properly recognize the beekeeper. You may also contact me at: beefarm2003@aol.com

Ron Hoopes

Jonathan Allen Costlow



Jonathan Allen Costlow 40, of Akron, passed away suddenly on November 10, 2011, as a result of a tragic construction accident in Akron. He was preceded in death by his stepfather Lee Hamrick.

Johnny was a 1990 graduate of Watkins Memorial H.S., served honorably in the US Army, and was employed by Kokosing Construction Co. He enjoyed running marathons, and was a member of Phillips Phlyers (a runner’s organization). He also enjoyed Historical preservation.

He is survived by his parents **Susan Hamrick, (OSBA Life Member and COBA Member)** and Ralph Costlow of Pataskala, his son Spencer Costlow, brothers Jerry (Cassandra), Jason (Shannon) and Rob (Amy) Costlow

Bee Keeping and Pollination Services Research, Education and Outreach at Ohio State – an update!

David J. Shetlar

For lack of a better term, we have sensed quite a “buzz” around Ohio from professionals, hobby beekeepers, and beekeeping organizations, where all were expressing concern about, “What is Ohio State going to do, now that Dr. Tew is retiring?!” I have been asked by the Ohio Beekeepers Association to make some comments.

First, we (Ohio State Administration, Entomology Faculty and Staff) are not absolutely sure what will eventually happen, but we DO have plans! For a little background, the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences offered an early retirement incentive in order to encourage retirements of existing faculty and staff so that we can meet our budgetary constraints. This offer was primarily targeted to the Ohio State Extension personnel but other faculty and staff were eligible. Jim Tew fell into this group, and if you do

the analysis, Jim would have actually lost economic ground if he stayed on! Our department didn’t want him to go, but we had little choice in the matter.

Second, before the retirement incentive, the Department of Entomology had already identified that a high priority, research and teaching position was for a honey bee/pollination scientist. We were approved by our Dean (Bobby Moser) to search for such a scientist and we cast a pretty broad net to see what we could find. As a beekeeper, you should be aware that there are few new bee and/or pollination scientists being produced and quite a few institutions were also looking for top researchers. Part of this drive was due to the international issues facing honey bees and the need to ensure pollination. To make a long story short, we interviewed some strong candidates and

(Continued on page 17)

The Ohio Queen Initiative

Dwight Wells

Due to the continuing issues of unsustainable honeybee losses in Ohio (30%), OSBA has created the Ohio Queen Initiative (OQI). OSBA President Elect Dana Stahlman has appointed me the Project Manager for the OQI. By way of introduction I was raised on a small dairy farm in Western Pennsylvania. I became interested in honeybees because of a speech I gave in my English class in 1954. I purchased, with my allowance, a 3 pound package of bees from the Sears Farm Catalog. I fell in love with honeybees. I have been in and out of beekeeping a couple of times during the years and when I retired in 2008 I returned to beekeeping.

The OQI has been created with the support of many interested Ohio beekeepers. An Advisory Board, with the following members: Dr. Joe Latshaw, Barb Bloetscher, Joe Kowaleski, Tim Arbeit, Jim Kerns, Dana Stahlman and myself has been assembled to assist in the Project. A network of Beekeeping Clubs and interested beekeepers is being developed to carry out the different elements of the project. The project will be on going for years with continuous improvement on both the processes and the genetic stock.

The goals of the project are:

- To create a diverse northern adapted genetic pool of resistant stock that will survive Ohio conditions
- To develop an organized exchange of improved honeybee stock throughout Ohio
- To train Ohio beekeepers how to create and overwinter Nucleus colonies (Nucs) for the following years honey production. Increase awareness of beekeepers to accessible improved genetic stock in Ohio.

Some of the Activity Modules are: Genetics Distribution, Nuc Creation, Overwintering Nucs, Evaluation of queens and colonies, Swarm Traps/Feral Colonies, Queen Production and nutrition, Honeybee diseases, pests, viruses and environmental issues.

Genetic distribution, Nuc creation and Overwintering Nucs will be the initial modules. Ohio is fortunate to have sources of superior genetics within the state, plus local survivor stock in several areas. We will be using conventional systems to transfer queen stock plus a couple of new proven systems.

Conventional transfer systems: Mated queens, unmated queens, queen cell transfers have been used since 1870.

New proven transfer systems: 48 hour open queen cell transfers and day-old just grafted larvae transfers.

48 hour open queen cell transfers have been used for several years successfully in Europe. Dr Larry Connor brought the 48 hour queen cell transfer technology back to the US and has mentioned it several times in his articles in American Bee Journal, also in his Queen Rearing Essentials book. Dr Joe Latshaw wrote an article about 48 hour queen cell transfer for the April 2011 Bee Culture. The 48 queen cell system has been used many times with great success.

The day-old just grafted larvae transfer has been successfully used in Germany for many years. Joe Latshaw has used it frequently within his queen rearing operation near New Albany, Ohio. Kirsten Traynor mentioned the process in the April 2008 issue of American Bee Journal.

Both transfer systems move the time consuming and resource demanding activity of queen rearing to the beekeeper. The 48 hour and the day-old larvae processes are effective when following the proper protocol. Because most of the time consuming and resource demanding part of queen rearing is transferred to the beekeeper, queen genetics can be moved quickly and efficiently thus speeding up the queen evaluation process to many beekeepers.

We are in the 1st phase of designing and building the Ohio Queen Project. More details will follow in the April issue of the OSBA newsletter.

Joe Latshaw has been extremely generous in support of the OQI by providing larvae from his breeder queens for evaluation. The 2nd phase of the OQI will be testing different lengths of time and methods in order to obtain the best process to transfer larvae for the OQI before we begin the first production run of OQI evaluation queens. The 3rd phase will be holding workshops with 3 to 5 clubs or groups of beekeepers to train them and to debug the different processes that are required for a successful project.

The first year goal of larvae and 48 hour queen cell transfers will begin in June, the 2nd transfers in July. We will proceed carefully and slowly at first to ensure quality of the queens in order to obtain the best results.

The Ohio Queen Project Trainers will be at the Tri-Counties Spring Work Shop in Wooster, Ohio on

(Continued on page 13)

Introducing....



I cannot tell you how happy I am to be in Ohio. I've had nothing but encouragement from everyone I've met in the beekeeping community, and, in fact everyone I've met in Ohio.

First, I should tell you how I ended up as the new honeybee researcher in the Entomology department at The Ohio State University OARDC in Wooster. I grew up in Missoula, Montana and got my first experience with bees in a summer

job with Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk at The University of Montana in 1997. Since then I've lived in five different states and three different countries, received various degrees, looked for adventure, gotten married and became a father.

I've never really imagined that I could ever become a professional bee researcher. At the beginning of my Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois, where I studied with Dr. May Berenbaum, I had no intention of doing my dissertation research on honeybees. But, as I'm sure many OSBA members understand, there is something about working with bees that alters your course in life in ways you never imagined. You wake up one day to find your bookshelves filled with bee books, all of your jeans have propolis stains and you've got a garage filled with beekeeping paraphernalia - and you don't ever recall making a conscious decision to devote that much of your life to honey bees. In my case I woke up one day to find that I'd written a Ph.D. dissertation entirely devoted to the honeybee, including chapters on colony collapse disorder, bee genomics and both honey bee and *Varroa* toxicology. By the time my dissertation was finished I was totally enthralled with bees and went on to a two-year post-doctoral position at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, working with Dr. Marion Ellis, where we continued looking at the effects of pesticides on bees.

So what does the future hold for bee research in Ohio? I was hired by Ohio State to "reclaim the Rothenbuhler legacy", as it states in the job advertisement. As you may well know, Dr. Walter Rothenbuhler was a bee researcher at Ohio State and giant in the world of bee research. He was an exceptional scientist because his

work was not only scientifically important but of practical use to beekeepers as well. He was the first to show that behavior in animals can have a genetic basis, a monumental finding when it was published in 1964. That work happened to be on the inheritance of hygienic behavior in bees – a topic that has grown substantially in importance since the 1960's.

Living up to the Rothenbuhler legacy, I intend to pursue research that is both scientifically and practically important. My work will be on honey bee toxicology, which is of practical importance given the pesticides that bees encounter both out in the landscape and inside the hive. The genomics revolution, and the sequencing of the honeybee genome, makes available the tools to really understand how pesticides affect bees on a molecular level.

It should be noted that Dr. Rothenbuhler did not start from scratch in his experiments on the heredity of hygienic behavior. Beekeepers named Brown and Van Scoy provided him with the famous "Brown" and "Van Scoy" lines upon which his groundbreaking research was based. I believe Dr. Rothenbuhler understood that the best research is a collaborative effort. In that spirit I invite the beekeepers of Ohio to collaborate with me to address the pesticide issues that are facing bees today. If you see a pesticide kill, or suspect that pesticides are affecting the health and productivity of your bees, I invite you to send me an e-mail at johnson.5005@osu.edu.

I want to thank the members of OSBA for your continuing support of bee research at Ohio State. I am looking forward to a long and fruitful collaboration with the beekeepers of Ohio to better understand the biology of the honey bee and to solve problems in beekeeping.

Reed Johnson

Lamb Apiaries

Dennis K. Lamb
175 Tallman Street
North Lewisburg, OH 43060
Home: 937.747.2383
Cell: 937.594.5885
dennislamb5@gmail.com



Your source for:
Beekeeping Wooden Ware
Queens, Nucs & Packages

OSBA 2010 Beekeeper Hall of Fame Inductees:

Kim Flottum and Dr. James Tew

THANK YOU

The Ohio State Beekeepers have done me a great honor...imagine being mentioned in the same breath with beekeepers like L.L. Langstroth, A. I. Root, Tom Ross, Charles Muth, George DeMuth, Dr. Walter Rothenbuhler and the rest of those chosen to be in the Ohio Beekeepers Hall Of Fame. I am humbled more than you can know.

Of course that prestigious list includes Dr. Jim Tew, who, like me greatly appreciates the fact that the original requirement of being deceased was amended. So, like Mark Twain's comment, the reports of our passing are somewhat of an exaggeration. Kathy and Vallie appreciate this also.

Kidding aside, I heartedly agree with the original choices OSBA made for this list...Langstroth changed the world, as did A. I. and the rest of the Roots, Tom Ross and the others in the original selection certainly made permanent marks, and this year's choices... Charles Reese, Hobart, Wendell and Don Cooke... went far in making beekeeping life better in Ohio.

Our state is indeed blessed with some of the forever greats in our industry. I thank you again for your consideration in including me in this August body of beekeeping heroes.

Kim Flottum

Publication Discounts

Bee Culture,

A.I. Root Co. Publisher.

Reg. - \$25.00

OSBA DISCOUNT - \$20.00

American Bee Journal,

Dadant & Sons. Publisher

Reg. - \$26.00

OSBA DISCOUNT - \$20.25

The Speedy Bee

Troy Fore, Publisher

Reg.—\$17.25

OSBA DISCOUNT—\$13.25

Dear OSBA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and OSBA Membership

I'm at a loss for words that express how touched I was with all the ceremony concerning my retirement and the Hall of Fame award that I was later presented. On the first count, I had no idea that such beautifully styled hive even existed – much less that one would be constructed for me. It was superbly tasteful and properly finished.

But I truly had no idea that it was even possible to be inaugurated into the *Ohio Beekeepers' Hall of Fame* while still living. When Kim Flottum's name was offered, I was confused and temporarily tried to make the award something to do with the *Beekeeper of the Year Award*. Before I came to a conclusion, my name was offered. This award was truly a pleasant surprise. I had **no** hint that this was coming. It is intimidating to be on the same list as the Roots, Ross, Dr. Rothenbuhler and the other recipients. While I have always worked diligently for OSBA and Ohio's beekeepers, in my new life, I will try even harder to live up to the standards of the award and the expectations of the Ohio State Beekeepers' Association.

I humbly thank all the people who worked to make the reception successful. I thank OSBA Board of Directors for the expense and time commitment made on my behalf. I thank the individuals who had the original idea and the persistence to get the ceremonial hive designed, constructed and finished. I thank the selection committee for feeling that I have offered enough to be installed in such an august group. The whole event was thrilling for me.

I have had a rewarding and fulfilling career in Ohio. Ohio and all her beekeepers – deceased and alive – are both dear memories and dear friends. Whenever possible, I will continue to work for the betterment of Ohio beekeeping. Thank you for all my undeserved praise.

Sincerely,

James E. Tew

An Ohio Beekeeper

Review of the Ohio Queen Program

Dana Stahlman

This past summer, OSBA in conjunction with the OSU Bee Lab, The Walter T. Kelley Company, Central Ohio Beekeepers Association and Jefferson Township in Franklin County carried out a project intended to raise money for the Wooster Bee Lab. However, during the early part of 2011, OSU announced that Bee Lab staff, Dr. J. Tew and Sherry Ferrell would be retiring, and the future of the bee lab was uncertain.

The program to raise queens from selected stock, and then to sell the queens to raise funds was developed under the direction of Dana Stahlman, a volunteer coordinator, and a number of COBA members. The funds were deposited in the OSBA treasury for use to supplement beekeeping education if for some reason Jim and Sherry were not available to continue the efforts of OSU extension in beekeeping. OSU did hire Dr. Johnson in the Dept. of Entomology for 80% research and 20% teaching but clearly not as the successor to Dr. Tew.

The project raised nearly \$8,000.00. The goal was to produce queens with outstanding qualities, distribute them to beekeepers, and determine the success of the queens sold. No follow up has been done to check with those who received queens. However, the program offered free replacement of any queen determined to be "poor". We replaced about 10% of the queens produced. The Medina County Beekeepers Association purchased 78 queens and provided a survey of their members which covers 64 of those queens sold. The information is valuable because in any queen production plan, a need exists to find out if the queens produced are really as good as we planned. I will be uploading a story with a number of photos and descriptions of the queen program on the OSBA web site. Thanks to the Medina Beekeepers for supplying us with this helpful survey. Now, the real question remains: How many of the 43 successful queens make it to spring 2012 and are still considered successful!

The Medina Survey: Submitted by Larry Arbogast

Total	Queens	Not accepted	Disappeared	Superceded	Died	Successful
	64	7	2	11	1	43
Summary	Percent	11 %	3%	17%	2%	67%

Ohio Master Beekeeping Program

Dana Stahlman

Roger A. Morse, Ph.D , founder of the EAS Master Beekeeping Program, reasoned there was a need for knowledgeable, certified beekeeping instructors who would be responsible to teach others about beekeeping. Ohio State Beekeepers Association continues this philosophy by offering an **Ohio Master Beekeeping Program**. OSBA will also recognize those individuals that are recognized as EAS Master Beekeepers and individuals who have earned a PhD in a field related to beekeeping and living in Ohio as **OSBA Certified Ohio Master Beekeepers**.

Mention of a certified beekeeper program appeared in a 1970's issue of the Ohio State Newsletter when individuals taking a beekeeping class with Larry Connor mentioned the need for some vehicle to recognize individuals qualified to teach beginning beekeeping classes. An Ohio Certified Beekeeper program existed under the direction of Dr. J. Tew until his lab tech. Da-

vid Heilman left seven or so years ago. The idea was again resurrected by Ron Hoopes when he was elected as OSBA president in 2007. In the meantime, many states have initiated Master Programs for their state beekeepers.

Creating a program is the easy part. I have cut and pasted a number of things other states have already worked out and changed wording and some concepts to fit Ohio. This document has been submitted to over 100 individuals for comment. The feedback indicates a need for this kind of program in Ohio. I did receive a number of suggestions and I have revised three drafts before creating the current version that must be approved by the OSBA board in January before it becomes official. The hard part is going to be in creating a self-sustaining the pro-

(Continued on page 19)

OSBA Kick-off of the Master Beekeeping Program

Date: March 22, 2012

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: **The Martin Janis Center**, 600 E 11th Ave. Columbus Ohio 43211 Located on the Ohio State Fairgrounds just West of I -71 on 11th Avenue.

Program: Dewey Caron and Larry Connor are conducting a class designed for the Master Beekeeper Program. You will earn 3 Credit Hours towards the required 40 when you attend this seminar titled "**Colony Management.**" Content will be based on Dewey Caron's book, Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping.

Fee: 40.00 for walk-in registration on the night of the seminar.

Master Beekeeping Program Enrollment fee is a one-time payment of \$5.00. Enrollment in the MBP is required if the hours are to be applied to the Master's Program. However, the seminar is open to all. Materials covered in this seminar will be used for the Master Beekeeper Test.

OSBA membership pre-registration \$25.00. Non-Member pre-registration \$35.00.

Speakers



Dr. Dewey Caron, Emeritus Professor in Apiculture from Delaware, and author of *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*, *The African Honey Bee in the Americas*, and *Observation Hives*. He is a nationally known speaker and highly recognized for his efforts to improve beekeeping education. He was Dr. Tew's Ph.D. advisor at the University of Delaware.



Dr. Larry Connor is President of Wicwas Press, author of *Bee Sex Essentials*, *Increase Essentials* and *Queen Rearing Essentials*. He has published a host of other beekeeping books, organizes the Serious Sideline Course at the ABF meetings annually, and is a nationally known speaker on a variety of topics. He contributes to both *Bee Culture Magazine* and *The American Bee Journal* with monthly articles.

OSBA Master Beekeeping Program Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email Address (Print neatly) _____

- \$5.00 for enrollment in Master Beekeeper Program
- \$25.00 pre-registration for OSBA Members
- \$35.00 pre-registration for non-OSBA Members

Make checks payable to : **Ohio State Beekeepers Association**

Mail to: Dana Stahlman
3075 Mann Rd
Blacklick, OH 43004-8725

Winter Feeding—Always an Emergency

William Starrett

The purpose of this article is to give suggestions on what to do if one finds a hive in need of additional food in the winter. It is by far better to avoid the need to feed hives by making sure they have enough honey stored before winter weather sets in. However, some years weather and plant conditions prevent even strong hives from collecting sufficient honey for winter and it is necessary to feed sugar syrup to meet their winter needs. Feeding sugar syrup should be done early enough in the fall that the moisture has been removed and the dehydrated syrup is stored in combs.

Because winter clusters tend to only move upward in the hive the best location for their food reserves is immediately above the cluster. That makes it easy to recognize the symptom of a hive that is in danger of starving since the closer the cluster gets to the inner cover the less food they have above them and the sooner they will run out of honey. Even when temperatures are too cold to dig into the hive or disturb the cluster the cover can be removed to see where the cluster is located. After that quick check the cover can be returned without disturbing the cluster.

Nothing much can be done for hives with too few bees to create a winter cluster capable of maintaining adequate cluster warmth but emergency feeding can be done if the hive is low on food. But even that is not foolproof. While feeding thick syrup may be better than not feeding at all it is clearly a life or death situation and should be done as a last resort because the moisture that it contains is itself a hazard to the winter cluster because of the impossibility of evaporating it at

cluster temperatures and the difficulty of the bees accessing it.

The first choice for winter feeding would be to provide frames of capped honey that has been reserved for such occasions. Sometimes hives that have died earlier have capped honey that can be placed immediately above the cluster in another hive body. In any case there is nothing better than honey in frames that the bees have stored.

Fondant and sugar bricks (sugar candy) are perhaps the best choices for emergency winter feeding because they do not contain the moisture that syrups contain and they can both be placed on the frames above the cluster or put on a candy board above the cluster. The moisture the cluster gives off is sufficient to soften the fondant and sugar bricks for their use. Commercial fondant is relatively easy to purchase at bakery supply stores and some bakeries will order it for you. Some fondant will become too soft and can drip onto bees so putting it on waxed paper on top the frames is advisable. If sugar bricks or fondant is not available granulated sugar can be wetted and allowed to harden and used in the same manner.

Fondant and sugar bricks can also be made at home and recipes for both are readily available online. A good recipe for sugar bricks is available at www.mdasplitter.com/docs/candy.pdf or candy bricks can be purchased at www.mdasplitter.com.

My contact info is: billthebeeman@att.net

Ohio Queen Initiative

(Continued from page 8)

March 3, 2012 and also at the Southwestern Ohio Beekeepers School at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland, Ohio on March 24, 2012.

Keep watching for additional announcements about the Ohio Queen Initiative. I would appreciate comments and questions about the Ohio Queen Initiative Contact me at:

cell: 937.477.9251

email: dwells85@woh.rr.com

PACKAGE BEES IN OHIO

Waldo Ohio Apiaries

Place Your Orders Now

George E. Taylor

PO Box 122

Kilbourne, Ohio 43032

Office - 740-524-6241 **Cell** - 740-815-7792

Email waldobee@msn.com

Website www.waldobees.com



Advanced Beekeeping Class – Going Commercial

Bee Culture Magazine and **The Medina County Beekeepers** will present a half-day **Advanced Beekeeping Seminar** on Sunday, March 18, 2012 from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM at the A. I. Root Meeting Room at 623 W. Liberty Street, Medina, OH 44256. This meeting room is on the South side of Liberty Street. Look for the Medina Beekeepers Sign. Refreshments will be provided.

Instructors

Kim Flottum, Editor of *Bee Culture* Magazine, and author of *Backyard Beekeeping*, *The Honey Handbook* and *Better Beekeeping*. Kim is Emeritus Chairman Of the Board and President of EAS, and Past President of The Ohio State Beekeepers and the Medina County Beekeepers.

Dr. Dewey Caron, Emeritus Professor in Apiculture from Delaware, and author of *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*, *The African Honey Bee in the Americas*, and *Observation Hives*. Dr. Caron is Emeritus Chairman Of The Board and President Of EAS, and Past President of WAS.

Dr. Larry Connor is President of WicWas Press, author of *Bee Sex Essentials*, *Increase Essentials* and *Queen Rearing Essentials*. He has published a host of other beekeeping books, organizes the Serious Sideliner Course at the ABF meetings annually, and is a nationally known speaker on a variety of topics.

Topics include:

- Winter and spring management for maximum population for Midwest honey flows
- Using uncapped queen cells, capped queen cells, virgins and whole queens, looking hard at summer splits for expansion and swarm control
- Controlling Varroa...what works, what doesn't and why, efficiency in time and cost
- Managing diseases and other pests efficiently
- Producing and marketing Varietal and artisan honey
- Fall and winter management for optimal overwintering success in the Midwest

Queen production is not a part of this class. Due to timing, live colony work is not part of the class. All instruction will be inside. Instructors will be using, primarily, PowerPoint material, but some hands on may be available. This will be a full four hours of instruction. Please arrive early and be prepared to ask questions after the class is over. There is no limit to the number of students for this class.

Fee is \$60.00/person. A family of 2 \$85.00. Some instructional material will be provided, and the book *Better Beekeeping* is included. Advance notice or attendance is required, but payment will be made at the door the day of the meeting. For more information and to preregister, contact Kim Flottum at Kim@BeeCulture.com, or 330.722.2021. **Registration closes Friday, March 9, 2012.**

Note: This class will count towards 5 credit hours in the Master Beekeeper Program



**The Best Selling
BEEKEEPING
Magazine In
AMERICA!**

- **12 Big Issues A Year**
- **The BEST
Beekeeping Calendar**
- **The ONLY Urban
Beekeeping Section**
- **The ONLY Kids &
Bees Activity Page**
- **The most informative
Web Page for
Beekeepers There is**
- **Paper & Digital Editions**

**Keeping Bees
Helping Beekeepers
For Over**

140 Years

\$19.95

**Save 70% Off The
Newsstand Price!**

To Order Call TODAY!

800.289.7668

ext. 3220 or 3214

or visit

www.BeeCulture.com

Using Nucs to Improve Spring Management Efficiency

Roy Hendrickson

Spring is without question the most critical period of the beekeeping year. Management decisions and practices initiated in early spring normally set the tone for the entire year.

Nowhere is this situation more clearly illustrated than with the make up of early season splits or the installation of package bees. Traditionally, spring splits and packages are started in standard ten frame equipment. However, because of recurring cold weather, colonies established in this fashion often remain static until enough brood emerges to form an adequate sized cluster to allow for broodnest expansion. In worst case scenarios, prolonged cold weather can negatively affect colony buildup via chilled brood or partial starvation.

This scenario can easily be avoided by starting early season splits and packages in five frame nuc boxes. The nucs small cavity size helps retain heat given off by the cluster thereby eliminating many of the negative effects of cold weather. Once queenright, the heat retention factor allows the small colony to expand its brood rearing capacity far above that of colonies started in traditional ten frame equipment. Approximately four or five weeks after the new queen starts laying, emerging brood will cause the small cavity to become crowded. Heat rises, so take advantage of this principle by adding additional space vertically in the form of a second five frame box. Supply the second box with drawn comb, and watch the broodnest literally explode. Absent that option, foundation is the only alternative, wax or plastic work equally well. Either way, early season splits or packages that are allowed to expand vertically will far outpace comparable colonies forced to expand horizontally in standard equipment.

Once both boxes are full of bees, brood and honey, it's time to transfer the colony into standard ten frame equipment. If you need additional comb drawn, add a second hive body of foundation at that time. It may be necessary to feed thin sugar syrup to stimulate wax production until the onset of the main flow. If at the time of transfer the main honey flow is imminent and foundation is not an issue, simply add a queen excluder and a couple supers of drawn comb and run the colony for the flow as is. Once the surplus crop has been removed, add a second hive body of drawn comb for mid and late season use. Again, it may be necessary to feed during the mid and late summer dearth experienced by most Ohio beekeepers.

The second advantage of using nucs for early season startups lies with their ease of movement. Make no mistake, early in the season virtually all the adult bees in a given colony orient to that colony's location. Therefore it's imperative that early season splits be moved to an alternative location to prevent the adult bees from returning to their parent colony. Nuc boxes simplify that moving procedure. Band, strap, or use deck screws to fasten down the cover. Fold a piece of window screen to secure the entrance, and you're off. Once brood from the new queen starts to emerge, reverse the process and move the nuc back home before it requires any additional space.

Equipment wise, nuc boxes can be manufactured from whatever material is handy. Functionality is the most important ingredient. Mine are nothing more than cut-down, re-built hive bodies or supers. They feature a permanently attached solid bottom board, external hand-holds for easy handling, and migratory covers. All have standard $\frac{3}{4}$ inch entrances and a traditional wooden block entrance reducer. The entrance opening can easily be adjusted from wide open, down to a one or two bee wide opening, depending on the seasonal temperature variations. If you plan on building your equipment from scratch, pay close attention to the "bee space" measurements. Ignore these criteria at your own peril! Finally, be prepared and buy or build a sufficient number of extra five frame boxes to meet any foreseeable need. I would also suggest you build or acquire some nuc sized inner covers. The inner covers should have a deep $\frac{3}{4}$ inch rim capable of accommodating a standard two or three hole queen cage. This will eliminate the need to remove a frame for queen introduction purposes. In practice, simply place the queen cage screen down over the opening between one of the center frames. This will allow the colony free access to the caged queen during the introduction process. The $\frac{3}{4}$ inch accommodation space will also allow the small colony easy access to pollen substitute patty should the need arise. The inner cover should also have a center hole for top feeding purposes. For the build it yourselfer, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inch hole saw works quite well.

From an operational standpoint: to install a package, remove the three center frames and dump the bees into the open space. Replace the frames and install the queen cage as described above. Top feed thin syrup via a quart Mason jar or something larger, and use an extra nuc box and cover to protect the feeder.

(Continued on page 19)

Growing Younger Beekeepers – the 4-H Beekeeping Project

Dan O'Callaghan

During the OSBA meeting in Reynoldsburg in November, it was encouraging to see the interest in bees and beekeeping that has obviously grown in recent years. Beekeepers in attendance were a very diverse group, both genders, many sizes, shapes, and ethnic backgrounds. Experience ranged from less than a season to decades/generations of beekeeping, single-hive hobbyist to commercial, from rural to inner-city. However, one characteristic was pretty prevalent—the hair color *gray* was a definite majority!

Because bees and beekeeping are so important, and the challenges bees face are numerous, perpetuating the skill/art/craft of beekeeping is critical. Current beekeepers—and beekeeping associations—are vital to recruiting and training young people as the next generation of beekeepers. The effort we put into this recruiting and teaching may be the most important legacy we leave for the future of beekeeping. From 1919 to World War II, both *Gleanings in Bee Culture* and the *American Bee Journal* published numerous articles referencing the growth of “boys’ and girls’ bee clubs” and detailed the requirements and experiences of the new beekeepers and their mentors. Alas, there are no longer many clubs like these, but maybe it is time for resurgence? There are still programs and guides to help current beekeepers encourage youth to take up beekeeping. In Ohio, one of these is the OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program’s Beekeeping project.

The 4-H Beekeeping Project is designed to help youth learn about bees and how to be a beekeeper. The project is open to any 4-H member when the youth is enrolled in 3rd grade and is at least age 8 as of January 1 of the current year, and ends December 31 of the year in which the individual reaches the age of 19. Ohio’s primary reference for the project is the *#641 Beekeeping Project and Record Book*. This manual was revised in 2010 by a small group of local beekeepers, and covers project requirements, colony care and management, and basic beekeeping records. 4-H members should complete this required project book every year a beekeeping project is taken.

There are three project levels:

Beginner - Members with no experience in a project area, or those who are 8 to 10 years old. Youth at this level are learning about the basics of beekeep-

ing, including types of bees, honey and wax, plants that attract bees, and beekeeping equipment. At this level, youth are not *required* to have any bees, but are expected to learn about beekeeping, and are encouraged to gain first-hand experience by observing the hive(s) of a local beekeeper. This level is also recommended for those establishing their first hive.

Intermediate - Members with some experience in a project area, or those between 11 and 13 years of age. Youth at this level acquire a colony and learn how to care for and manage their hive throughout the year. A realistic goal at this level is managing basic beekeeping operations that result in the production of extracted, chunk, or cut comb honey.

Advanced - Members with experience in a project area, or those who are 14 years old or older. Youth at this level can expect to learn more about honey production, special kinds of honey, bee societies, and bee diseases and parasites. Project goals are varied, and examples include queen rearing, making equipment, and using other products of the hive.

As beekeepers, we are well aware of the recent changes to and current resource challenges faced by the Extension service and similar programs. We cannot rely primarily on universities and county agencies to provide resources to grow future beekeepers. Volunteers are critical, and there are a number of things we can do individually and collectively as beekeeping ambassadors.

Pry the video-game controllers and smartphones from your kids and/or grandkids, and bring them to the bee yard! Contact the local Extension office and offer to speak to 4-H clubs about beekeeping. Write an article for the 4-H newsletter encouraging the project. Offer to be a mentor to youth who are interested. Invite 4-H clubs or individual members to local Association meetings or events. Schedule basic beekeeping workshops for 4-H members. Provide free or reduced dues to local Association membership for 4-H beekeepers. Sponsor the County Fair trophies and other awards. Establish a 4-H lending library. Donate bees, hives, other equipment, and—most importantly—share a little of your time and knowledge!

Note: to see one example of a County Association’s current 4-H sponsorship efforts, visit <http://gcbeckeepers.com/4H.aspx>

ODA Update

(Continued from page 7)

hired Dr. Reed Johnson who finished his degree at the University of Illinois, then moved to the University of Nebraska. He is an expert on the interactions of pesticides and diseases on honey bee health. His first task at Ohio State will be to build his research program, obtain funding and teach. While our department values extension/outreach education, our current recommendation to Reed will be to provide periodic updates to the beekeeping industry through the least time-consuming methods (i.e., newsletter contributions and periodic, annual meetings). In fact, in order to get Reed, we promised that we would have Dr. Tew tend to the extension efforts, but this was before the buyout offer!

Third, in order to keep our promise to have an extension/outreach effort in beekeeping and pollination services, administrators in CFAES and the Department of Entomology, had to huddle and come up with some alternative options since Dr. Tew could not be rehired for a year. This absence for one year is a requirement of the retirement incentive offer. We looked within our organization and without! We then settled on a plan that we believe is a win-win situation for Entomology and OSU Extension. OSU Extension administration offered to cover half of an extension educator and CFAES administrators stated that we could use some of the salary savings that will result from Dr. Tew's retirement. We soon identified an extension educator who was located in the Stark-Summit area, Denise Ellsworth. Stark-Summit needed to reduce its staff and Denise would not have to relocate to operate out of the Wooster campus. We extended an offer to Denise to become a "Program Director" which is the term that we use to define personnel that are not faculty, but are in charge of essential programs.

I will let Denise introduce herself in your next newsletter, but she has been an extension educator for over a decade.

Denise will be starting her new position in January. She has stated that her first activity will be to meet with the major Ohio beekeeping groups, determine what their needs are, and develop the plans to continue delivering some of the state-wide educational workshops that have been previously offered. She will continue the maintenance and development of the OSU Apiculture website, help direct our Pollenitarius efforts, and other activities yet to be determined. Denise will be generating a list of beekeeper contacts who want to receive news, workshop and program information from OSU. For the current time, to join the list, send an e-

mail to: OSUpollination@gmail.com

Finally, I want to assure Ohio beekeepers that the Wooster-based Bee Lab will NOT be closed! Steve Slack (Director of OARDC) has already fended off some efforts by others to repurpose the Bee Lab. He has confirmed that we NEED a Bee Lab at Ohio State. Major historic beekeeping items are being evaluated and we hope to have these on display in the future. This has also received Dr. Slack's support, but our current funds do not allow for the building of a brick-and-mortar museum.

Over the next year, Ohio State's CFAES, OARDC and OSU Extension hope that you will be pleased with what we have put into motion – a new researcher, new outreach specialist, and plans for closer working with Ohio's beekeepers! Denise Ellsworth and Reed Johnson will be contributing articles for your newsletters and we hope that this industry can also step to the plate to help our plans work. This will mean volunteering your time, money and materials! Outreach training and education efforts work best when industry volunteers help with the planning of programs, making local arrangements, and soliciting funds to pay expenses.

My personal goals for Ohio's Beekeeping Industries are: become a national leader in fostering bee health and bee services; demonstrate how to have a thriving, grass-roots beekeeping education and training program; and, increase the general public's appreciation for apiculture and the role of pollinators in our daily lives. I will be pushing all to reach these goals!

No Teaspoons Allowed

(recipes that *really* use honey)

Buttered Honey Spread

- 6 T Butter, salted
- 2 t. cornstarch or arrowroot
- 1 1/2 c. honey



In a saucepan over low heat, melt butter. Whisk in flour. Cook for a few minutes until flour is incorporated. Add honey. Heat thoroughly. Store in refrigerator

Serve warm over toast, pancakes, waffles, pound cake or ice cream!

An Interview with.....

Barbara Bloetscher

I was fortunate to carve some time from Barbara Bloetscher's busy schedule and talk with her about beekeeping and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). For the past 2.5 years, Barbara has worked for the Ohio Department of Agriculture as the State Entomologist, and State Apiarist. She has been a beekeeper for over 25 years.

The ODA's goal is to improve the health of honeybees, and to strengthen and expand the beekeeping industry in Ohio. One of the main functions is monitoring the health and status of bees in our state. The County Inspectors in the Apiary Inspection Program serve as our first line of defense against pests and diseases. Inspectors are the eyes and ears for the ODA, the first line of defense against the spread of disease and pests.

Due to the media coverage that CCD has received, there is a resurgence of interest in bees and beekeeping. Local clubs have seen an increase in membership in the last five years. Newer beekeepers are typically hobbyist/sideliners; approximately 90% of Ohio beekeepers have five hives or less. Because of the increasing number of managed bee colonies and beekeepers, it is vital that the ODA ensure that the new generation of beekeepers has healthy bees in the state of Ohio.

Registering your hives is a state law. The \$5 fee that beekeepers pay to register each apiary is deposited into a general fund at ODA which helps to cover paperwork and office costs. The data generated from registering is used to help support the Ohio beekeeping industry at the State and Federal level.

A common misconception is that the \$5.00/ apiary registration pays for the inspections or that ODA hires and pays the inspectors. In reality, the inspection program is funded by each county. The inspector's pay is a line item within the county budget. While Barbara oversees the overall program, it is the responsibility of the county to hire and pay each Inspector. She helps train inspectors and stays up-to-date on their inspections, as well as communicates with the counties. Many times, the counties contact Barbara to request help in finding an appropriate candidate to fill the position.

The Inspectors' primary responsibility is to ensure that the honeybee colonies in that county are healthy. They help the local beekeeper curtail the spread of serious diseases such as American foulbrood, *Nosema ceranae*, and pests such as Varroa and Tracheal mites, and the Small Hive Beetle, and provide advice on how to keep the bees vigorous. Honey issues (quality, pu-

riety) are matters of another division of the ODA, Food Safety.

When you send in the annual Apiary Registration Form, you can write on it that you would prefer to be present during the inspection. (Editor's note: I have found that allowing the inspector to check my hives provides some of the best education possible for the beekeeper. I request to be present during inspection, and the inspector has always patiently answered my questions and helped improve my beekeeping knowledge.)

Inspectors complete an inspection sheet during their apiary visit. One copy is given to the beekeeper, the inspector retains a copy and sends the other to ODA. Inspectors are looking for disease/pests and any issues with misuse of chemicals in the hive. Not only do inspectors check apiaries, but they also inspect used equipment for resale and any nucs and queens sold in the state of Ohio. Once again they are trying to limit the possibility that livestock (bees/queens) and used equipment will transfer disease into your location. When you purchase used equipment, nucs, or queens, they should have a certificate of health from the ODA.

Not all counties are fortunate enough to have bee inspectors; currently, we have 16 vacancies. This could be due to lack of county funds, or potential candidates. If your county has no inspector, work through your local club to contact County commissioners to fund the slot. If the vacancies are due to a lack of candidates, work with your local club to find appropriate applicants. While many inspectors are retired from their professional jobs, Barbara does have a few inspectors who are new to the beekeeping endeavor. Inspectors are trained in the duties and responsibilities of the job. Whether or not a county has an Apiary Inspector, beekeepers in that county still have to pay the \$5.00 per apiary registration fee.

Another great resource for Ohio's beekeepers is the ODA's Apiary Program website,

<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/apiary/apiary.aspx>. The numerous fact sheets are currently undergoing needed updates. Topics include "Sugar Roll to Detect Varroa", "Pests of Honey bees", "Swarm Prevention and Control", etc. The website also contains links to OAC (Ohio Administrative Code) and ORC (Ohio Revised Code) that pertain to beekeeping. You can find your county inspector contact info, along with a detailed list of local bee clubs and their contact info.

Yearly inspection summaries are also located on this site. Barbara uses this information to help track where

(Continued on page 19)

Ohio Master Beekeeping Program

(Continued from page 11)

gram. Thus, the major issue is how to keep the program going after those of us who created it step down from a leadership role. I have included in the planning, a method to raise funds from those enrolling in the program, to ensure the Ohio Master Beekeeping program is not a burden to the membership of OSBA. The program will use paid professional speakers and speakers who have published books and articles. Our goal is to have high caliber instruction for the beekeepers committed to the program.

Please visit the club's website at:

www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org for detailed information. On schedule is a meeting in Medina, Ohio sponsored by Medina county beekeepers and an official kick off in Columbus, Ohio on March 22nd with Larry Connor and Dewey Caron on beekeeping management.

The program is an intensive three step program – A beginning/Apprentice level, a Journey (man or woman) level, and a Masters level. Certification by OSBA is designed to give participants the opportunity to increase their beekeeping knowledge. OSBA will provide certificates to all individuals who complete the requirements for each individual level. Instruction will be provided through a number of class/seminar/workshops certified by OSBA. OSBA's goal is to establish four centers where training for the advanced Journey (man or woman) level and Master levels will be held on a rotating schedule to allow members throughout Ohio to take classes closer to home

An Interview with....

(Continued from page 18)

diseases are in the state of Ohio. Currently, nationwide 19 different viruses negatively impact honey bees. These viruses are unintentionally being spread by migratory beekeepers as they pass through Ohio, and by the import of increasing number of packages from the South each spring, around 8-9 thousand! Since 1986 when the varroa mite first appeared in Ohio, the beekeeping industry dwindled from 5000 beekeepers and 330,000 colonies to only 4000 beekeepers and 32,720 colonies. Although this sounds bleak, in the last three years we've increased our numbers from 3735 to 4000 beekeepers and the number of apiaries doubled (10,284 fall 2011)!

So, it looks as though beekeeping and bees are making a comeback in Ohio. The ODA certainly will need to support beekeepers if we want to monitor the many health issues facing our girls.

Barbara is also tracking the top pests in Ohio to check for patterns. She is currently conducting a bee survey in cooperation with the USDA APHIS and USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS). This survey is the first of its kind in many years in Ohio. She's collecting honey bees from medium to large sized apiaries across the state to test for both species of *Nosema*, other diseases and viruses as well as arthropod pests to help determine what issues we currently have in Ohio. If you would like to participate, contact Barbara. Another option available for beekeepers is to send 50+ bees in a bottle of alcohol or a section of brood comb to the USDA Beltsville Maryland lab (<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=7473>). To date they do not charge for testing. This service will test for mites and the presence of *Nosema spp.* on adults, and the common diseases on the brood sample.

I would like to thank Barbara for sharing this important information with *Ohio Beekeeping* readers.

Managing Nucs

(Continued from page 15)

For splits, I prefer to feed frames of honey when available. When making up the split, put the emphasis on adult bees over brood, i.e. give the split an instant field force. Once the new queen begins egg production, the additional adult population will more than compensate for any initial brood shortfall.

Editor's Note:

Sources for 5 frame nucs:
 Walter T. Kelley: www.kelleybees.com
 Dadant: www.dadant.com
 Mann Lake: www.mannlakeltd.com

If you are feeling creative, you can make five nucs out of a sheet of plywood:
 Google: Coates5FrameNuc.pdf

Calendar of Events

<p align="center">OSBA January 2012 Activity Calendar</p>		<p align="center">First Quarter 2012 Educational Opportunities</p>
<p>January 11, 2012</p> <p>January Board Meeting Moved from BenchMark Bank to the Rothenbuhler Bee Lab on the Ohio State University campus. The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 in the Conference Room. The Rothenbuhler Lab is located on Carmark Drive on the Waterman farm north of Lane Avenue and West of Kenny Road. This is just north of the Cattle barn and silo clearly visible from Lane Avenue.</p>	<p align="center">January 9-14</p> <p>North American Beekeeping Conference: www.nabeekeepingconference.com/</p>	
<p>January 16, 17, & 18</p> <p>Ohio Produce Growers & Marketing Association in Sandusky, Ohio. OSBA will have a 10 x 10 booth.</p>	<p align="center">January 21</p> <p>Eastern KY Beekeeping School: www.medinabeekeepers.com</p>	
<p>January 17</p> <p>Medina County Beekeepers Association. (www.medinabeekeepers.com) Timely Management and the Ohio State Master Beekeeping Program .Talk by Dana Stahlman</p>	<p align="center">February 4</p> <p>Allen County Beekeeping School: http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/bees/index.htm</p>	
<p>January 27, 28, and 29</p> <p>Ohio Power Show OSBA will have a 10 x 10 booth -- Dana Stahlman will be presenting programs about honey bees at 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p align="center">February 17-18</p> <p>Western PA Beekeeping Seminar</p>	
<p>January 28</p> <p>Ohio Valley Beekeepers Association Expo and Beekeeping School, at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, WV Registration and information at: http://www.angelfire.com/nb/movba/expo2012.html.</p>	<p align="center">February 25</p> <p>Indiana Bee School X: http://www.indianabeekeeper.com/contact_us/indiana_bee_school</p>	
<p>March 3</p> <p>Tri-County Beekeepers Conference: www.TriCountyBeekeepers.org OSBA will have a table at this event</p>	<p align="center">March 10</p> <p>Bluegrass Beekeeping School: http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/bees/index.htm</p>	
<p>March 24</p> <p>SWOBA Beekeeper Conference: http://www.swoba.org/index.htm#821439551 OSBA will have a table at this event</p>		

Club Corner — *Great Ideas You Can Use!*

The **Medina County Beekeepers Association** holds an annual "Plant Swap" every year around June. This is a very informal affair. We announce the upcoming "Plant Swap" during our May meeting and then advertise it in our June newsletter "The Bee Herder". There is no charge for the plants and the swap usually takes place in the parking lot before the meeting. All that is asked is if you are interested in participating is that you "Bring One/ Take One", label the plant with its variety, how tall, or how far it spreads so we know where to plant it. We encourage participants to bring pollinator friendly, especially Honeybee friendly, plants however it is not required.

Sent in by Contributing Journalist:

Tracy Alarcon

The **Miami Valley Beekeepers Association** has had difficulty in scheduling and obtaining guest speakers for their meetings. They have come up with a unique and popular solution for this issue. Before the meeting, several beekeepers set up "Learning Stations" around the meeting room. Topics range from showing how to put foundation in the frames, to different methods of bottling and marketing honey, swarm catching, to ways of presenting beeswax for sale or for gifts.

Members move from table to table at their leisure, We believe this method of teaching has a distinct advantage over a set lecture, by allowing the members to go to the topics of interest. The more experienced members have the opportunity to see how other beekeepers accomplish similar tasks. It's all done in an informal setting, and there is no rush to have a speaker on the podium, or to worry about running out of time during the presentation.

Sent in by Contributing Journalist:

Joseph Clark

If you would like to share your club's innovative activities, please send your information to: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com

A Note from the Editor

Terry Lieberman-Smith

We are beekeepers. We keep bees because we love working with the girls. If we just wanted honey, we could find a local supplier or store. If we wanted to be outside in all sorts of weather, I can think of many other ways to do it. We are beekeepers because we are drawn to the hive by some invisible connection. We are an incredibly diverse group of people with a common interest. We are far more relevant in today's society than we probably ever were in the past. Hives are no longer relegated to somewhere on the back forty, but they hold a place of pride in one's backyard, rooftop, or balcony. Beekeeping is almost regularly front-page news, or electronic news for that matter.

Lest we forget, beekeeping is fun why else would we do it? It incorporates all of our senses; the aroma of the smoke, the wafting intermingled scents of propolis and honey from the hive, the delicious taste of warm comb filled with fresh honey, the tickle of a girl crawling on your hand, and the enjoyment of being transfixed by the amazing creatures known as the honeybee. It is true that we are constantly bombarded with bad news such as mites, viruses, beetles, pesticides, zoning quarrels, and other such enemies of the hive. Even with all this bad news, we persevere in our endeavor to be one with the hive.

So, how do we overcome all of the issues facing beekeeping? The answer is somewhat simplistic but true, work together at all levels. Just as a local beekeeper needs a strong local association for interaction, mentoring, and expanding beekeeping skills, local associations need a strong state association that will be a resource for the local groups. Beekeepers, local associations, and state associations are all an integral part of the future of beekeeping. When you think of it, we are very similar to the bees in a hive. They all have specific jobs in their lifecycle that ensure the survival of the hive. We start out as new-bees, gain some knowledge, become involved in our local clubs, and then, hopefully, have the opportunity and willingness to share the knowledge with other beekeepers across the state.

The future of beekeeping is in our hands. Beekeepers donate endless hours supporting our local and state associations, interacting with the public, maintaining our hives, and training the next generation of beekeeper. Of course, the scientists would say that the future of beekeeping is in the laboratory. However, we all know that's not true. Swarms from our hives will be populat-

(Continued on page 22)

Budget Friendly Beekeeping—Staying Ahead of the curve

Terry Lieberman-Smith

In order to stay ahead of the hives' needs, a beekeeper needs to stay 1/2 season or so ahead in the planning of their activities in the apiary. According to a beekeeping pamphlet from 1937, "...and more than you may realize, your efforts the 8 weeks previous to the first frost probably govern the honey production of your bees during the next 12 months more than anything you may do for them in the spring"

So, why not use the doldrums of winter to plan for a productive and organized 2012 beekeeping season.

I try to build and repair most of the equipment during the cold and dreary winter days. This is the time of year to take inventory of your equipment. Since we can't really visit the girls, we can take solace in sanding, priming, painting, replacing foundation and other tasks to fill the beekeeping void. Before you know it, you will need all that equipment that you took the time to repair and tune-up. (Winter is also a good time to catch up on all those beekeeping journals and books.)

Use a good indoor/outdoor glue, and enough nails or screws to hold everything together. Many beekeepers use screws to hold the hive boxes together rather than nails. During your hive inspection, if you pry too hard on the corners, you can pop nails. Plus, an electric drill with a bit, or battery drill, puts a box together with less sweat equity than hammer and nails. Some beekeepers use a nail gun, or pneumatic stapler.

Invest in a quality exterior primer. As for paint, exterior only. I started with a mis-tint at Lowe's that cost me \$2. Over the past few I keep buying tan mis-tints and keep mixing it with the original tan. Some beekeepers purchase large quantities of paint at auctions, and then just blend everything together....I'm told the color usually winds up beige. Places like the Re-Store, and St. Vincent also have paints, along with some thrift stores.

I've purchased commercial grade hive bodies. If you don't mind a few knots (which are not particularly pretty, but they aren't loose), it's a great savings on the budget. A good primer and 2 coats of paint and they look fine.

In order to save money, we have to have our eyes open for deals throughout the year. Don't wait until the night before, or even worse, during extracting to search for containers. If you wait until harvest, you'll be paying top dollar for the containers, either locally or through the mail (remember those painfully expensive shipping costs). If you keep a cost spreadsheet to help you price your product, you will be adding a lot of

cost to your customer (or taking a hit on your bottom line.) You might consider pooling your container order with other club members to get a lower price per container. Consider consolidating your equipment order with fellow beekeepers....bulk orders on woodenware can really be friendly on your wallet. If you plan on attending any of the myriad of Spring Beekeeping Conferences, save money on shipping and handling by having the vendor bring your order to the show! You will probably save enough on shipping costs that it will more than cover the cost of attending the Conference, plus you will have the added bonus of having attended a great educational experience!

Next Issue: While the girls busy are making honey, you need to prep for the sales.

A Note from the Editor

(Continued from page 21)

ing the feral colonies. Our outreach efforts to educate the community will encourage more people to either become beekeepers or become more tolerant of beekeeping. The more we educate the community, the more likely the municipalities will adjust their zoning to allow beekeeping.

As editor of *Ohio Beekeeping*, my goal is to help share great beekeeping information with fellow beekeepers. In future quarterly editions you will find information about OSBA's activities, which are many, and we will also have articles from guest columnists, interviews with those people in the state of Ohio who impact our beekeeping, and input from local clubs that might help your club overcome some of the hurdles that face all local associations. *Your input is vital to the success of all beekeepers.* If you would like to write an article, share some club success stories, recipes, highlight your club's community outreach, or other beekeeping adventure, please contact me. Who would have thought that I, beekeeping for only eight years, would have the opportunity to connect with all the beekeepers here in the state of Ohio?

My email address is: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com

See you in the beeyard

2012 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

NAME	POSITION	PHONE	EMAIL	
Dana Stahlman	President	614.855.1656	stahlmanapiaries@aol.com	
John George	Vice Pres	614.376.3040	johngeorge706@gmail.com	
Tim Arheit	Secretary	419.371.1742	tarheit@honeyrunapiaries.com	
David Crawford	Treasurer	614.293.5646	crawford.1@osu.edu	
John Grafton	Past-Pres	740.543.3067	johngrafton654@gmail.com	

NAME	POSITION	PHONE	EMAIL	REGION
Connie Schalinski	Director	614.237.0973	drexel3@att.net	Heart of Ohio
Alex Zomchek	Director	513.524.9663	ohiohoney@woh.rr.com	Miami Valley
Chris Lovett	Director	740.418.4390	calovett@gmail.com	Ohio Valley
S. Valentine-Cooper	Director	614.596.3600	svc@nwcs.com	Heart of Ohio
Ron Willison	Director	740.892.4290	jblackburn001@insight.rr.com	Heart of Ohio
Dwight Wilson	Director	419.722.1953	djlwilson@aol.com	Maumee Valley
Joe Kovalski	Director	740.632.7500	josephkovalski@sbcglobal.net	Crossroads
Sam Hammett	Director	740.678.1312	samjohammett@frontier.com	Buckeye Hills

Staff Appointments:

Terry Lieberman-Smith Newsletter Editor osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com

Ohio State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

Ohio State Beekeepers Association is a non-profit organization supporting people who have an interest in honeybees and beekeeping. You do not need to be a beekeeper or live in Ohio to join OSBA. Membership includes on-going activities of the association to promote honeybees and beekeeping, voting in annual elections, discounts on publications, and an annual subscription to *Ohio Beekeeping*.

For new memberships and renewals, send checks payable to OSBA with this completed form to:

Tim Arheit, OSBA Secretary,
330 Sunderland Rd S
Delphos, OH 45833-9768

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: (____) _____-_____ Email Address (Print neatly) _____

Name of Local Bee Association: _____

- \$15.00 for 1 year senior/student membership
- \$20.00 for 1 year individual membership
- \$25.00 for 1 year family membership
- \$160.00 for a lifetime membership
- I want to receive the newsletter by email only (no hardcopy)

A year membership is based on the calendar year, January through December

Ohio Beekeeping Highlights:

- * **President's Letter**
 - * **Updates on OSBA Activities**
 - * **ODA Updates**
 - * **Calendar of Events**
 - * **Informative Articles:**
 - ◆ **Winter Feeding**
 - ◆ **4-H Outreach**
 - ◆ **Nucs**
 - ◆ **Club Corner**



And much more!

Ohio State Beekeepers Association
Terry Lieberman-Smith, Editor
P.O. Box 24181
Dayton, OH 45424

Visit us on the Web:
www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org