The Tri-County Beekeeper’s Association of Northern OH will hold their 35th Annual Spring Beekeeping Workshop on March 1-2, 2013 at the OARDC in Wooster. Educational classes are geared for beginners to experienced beekeepers.

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

Friday evening:

- **Pollinatarium Tour** – Take a tour of the OSU Pollinatarium. This facility offers information about various pollinators in nature.

Special Class Sessions from 7:00—8:00 p.m., followed by refreshments:

- Beyond the Hive with Isaac and Jayne Barnes
- Beginning Beekeeping with Central Ohio Beekeepers Association

Saturday:

Key Note Speaker: **Jennifer Berry**
Coordinator of Apicultural Research, University of Georgia
Topic: Practical Natural Beekeeping

Workshop Topics Include:

- Planting for Pollinators
- Small Hive Beetle
- Making Salves and Lotions using Hive Products
- Beginner Beekeeping
- Urban Beekeeping
- Cooking with Honey
- Kid’s Classes
- and more…

Please note: This year there will be no walk-in registrations

For more information: TCBA’s website: [www.TriCountyBeekeepers.org](http://www.TriCountyBeekeepers.org)
Thanks to the support and help of many volunteers, OSBA ended the year with a very successful Fall Meeting with an attendance of over 140 members. In addition to our guest speaker, Danny Slabaugh, we had 16 breakout sessions with 13 of those sessions accredited toward our Master Beekeeper Program. A special thanks goes to the Ohio Department of Agriculture for allowing us to use their facilities as a meeting place and also for providing Lowell Lufkin (ODA Food Safety Department) who spoke on Ohio laws regarding the selling and labeling of honey.

Financially, OSBA continues to benefit from the foresight of former and current board members and officers who over the years continually have developed new OSBA programs and educational opportunities. OSBA is only as strong as its membership and while we are financially sound, there is so much more we can offer beekeepers in Ohio as we can grow our membership over the next several years.

The Board of directors is very busy planning for 2013. We have already had a meeting to discuss changes required in updating the Master Beekeepers Program. We are about to print a new, updated brochure that will clarify the requirements for each category. Some of those changes include a test to be given at the completion of the requirements for each category and how the program will be administered. We hope to have all the updates available on line early in the year.

A special thanks to Susan Valentine-Cooper. She will be applying for OSBA’s 501-c-3 status as a non-profit organization. This designation will offer OSBA a number of benefits such as applying for grants ourselves and giving us the ability to accept gifts and donations that are tax deductible to the donor.

OSBA will be sponsoring a Honey Judging Class. The class is on February 9th at OSU in Columbus at 2490 N. Carmack Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43212. This class can also be used as credit toward the Master Beekeeper Program. The instructors will be Jim Thompson who has written a book on honey judging, along with Carmen Conrad and John Grafton. See additional information on the website or contact Terry Lieberman Smith at osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com

We have also met with the officials at the Ohio State Fair and will soon have a contract to sign. Last year’s Fair was a great success and this year will be even better. Again, we will have daily bee beard demonstrations and OSBA will sponsor the honey judging contest. The dates are Sunday July 28th thru Sunday August 4th.

There is space available for vendor locations. The cost will be $50.00 per day and spaces are available on a first come basis. Contact me for time slots.

We need 3 members to volunteer 1 day from each region. To find out what region you are located in, refer to the regional map posted on our website. OSBA will provide admission tickets and parking passes. This will be a great time for those in the Master’s Program to pick up some public service credits needed for the Journeyman or Master certificate. You can contact me at johngeorge706@gmail.com or 614-376-3040 for times available.

Our next Board of Directors meeting will be January 26th at the United Methodist Church in Reynoldsburg at 12:00. The address is 1636 Graham Rd. 43068. Anyone is welcome to attend.

You can mark your calendars for June 1st as the summer meeting. Dr. Greg Hunt form Purdue University will be the guest speaker. The meeting will be held in Cambridge at The Prichard Laughlin Civic Center, 7033 Glenn Hwy. Cambridge, OH 43725.

The Fall Meeting will be held in Columbus on November 2nd with the speaker and location to be announced soon.

Our 2012 membership dues expired on December 31st. Please renew your membership and ask a friend to become a new member and share in all the benefits OSBA has to offer.

President's Letter

John George
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 meetings 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.
# Ohio State Beekeepers Association
## 2012 Treasurer’s Report

### 2012 Income as of 11/3/12:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>$11,690.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master Beekeeping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Ohio State Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer from CD for Reed Johnson grant</td>
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<td>Fall Meeting</td>
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**TOTAL RECEIPTS** $27,393.22

### 2012 Expenses as of 11/3/12

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
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<td>1,870.00</td>
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<td>Fall Meeting</td>
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</table>

**EXPENSES** $19,002.85

Checking account balance as of 11/3/2012.................................$28,981.99

Restricted Funds (5):
- Crossroads Savings Account ($1,648)
- OSU Bee Lab Auction/Honey Sale CD ($13,101). Matures 5/13
- Queen Bee Account ($7,200). Held within checking account
- OSBA Queen Fund CD ($3,446.00). Matures 3/13.
If you are looking to expand your beekeeping knowledge and hone your beekeeping skills, then the OSBA Master Beekeeper Certification Program is right up your alley.

The MBCP consists of three building blocks to achieve the certification of Master Beekeeper. Each level contains different tasks, class hour requirements, and tests in order to move to the next level. As our students progress, they gain new skills and confidence.

Students earn their required class hours by attending local and out-of-state conferences, seminars, and other preapproved educational opportunities.

The OSBA website continually updates information regarding the conference classes that count towards accreditation.

OSBA, a is also offering a honey judging class that will count towards master beekeeper credit. The class is open to all beekeepers, whether or not they are enrolled in the MBCP.

The OSBA Master Beekeeper Certification Program’s goal is to provide continuing education to enhance beekeeping through training, teaching, and mentoring.

Over 100 beekeepers have enrolled in this exciting program. Why not join them, learn new beekeeping skills, and share them with your fellow beekeepers.

A overview of the program is on page 25, and here is the link to the website information and application forms: www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/master-beekeeper-program/

See you in class.
Beekeeper of the Year Award – Dwight Wilson

Dwight Wilson was presented with the honor of “OSBA Beekeeper of the Year” for 2012 at the OSBA Fall Meeting in Reynoldsburg.

He has been an OSBA member and leader in his local bee association for many years. An OSBA Director since 2007, Dwight attends all OSBA Board Meetings and contributes greatly to the betterment of Ohio beekeeping.

Dwight serves unselfishly on numerous committees, always adding his expertise and commitment. He teaches classes at meetings, assists in all aspects of OSBA and is a “Friend” to all. Dwight is a valued resource, and when difficult situations arise he calmly finds solutions. Dwight volunteers for many assignments and encourages others to offer their assistance also. There is no doubt Dwight is a leader and has earned the respect of all.

The following is the inscription on the plaque presented to Dwight.

2012 Ohio State Beekeeper of the Year Award
Presented to Dwight Wilson
In recognition of your outstanding support and dedication to the beekeepers of Ohio
Your leadership, positive attitude and the kindness you have shown toward your fellow beekeepers, locally, regionally and state wide is an inspiration to us all
Presented by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association

Ron Hoopes
OSBA Committee Chairperson, Ron Hoopes, congratulates Dwight Wilson.

Honey Judging Class

Looking to build new skills during this long cold winter? OSBA has the class for you — Honey Judging. Whether you want to learn how to judge honey contests, improve your show entries, or just learn the mechanics of judging, our three instructors will teach you the basics. Instructors Jim Thompson, John Grafton and Carmen Conrad have participated in all areas of judging—from entering their hive products, to judging at local and state events. This all day class includes Jim Thompson’s book “A Handbook for Honey Judges and Beekeepers Exhibiting Hive Products”, additional hand-outs, and lunch. Class size is limited to 25 students. Master Beekeeper enrollees will earn 4 hours toward their accreditation. Download the registration form at: http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Registration-Form-for-Honey-Class-2013.pdf. If you have any questions regarding the class, please contact Terry Lieberman-Smith at osbanewaseditor@woh.rr.com.

Meet the Keynote Speaker for the OSBA Summer Conference:

Greg Hunt is a professor in the entomology department at Purdue University. He is originally from Cleveland OH where he earned a B.S. in Biology (1979) from John Carroll University. He later earned a MS degree in Plant Pathology from the Pennsylvania State University in 1984. He worked for five years at the University of Wisconsin, Madison where he began beekeeping as a hobby. He then enrolled as a graduate student to study bees at the University of California-Davis where he received a PhD in entomology (1994). He has published over 60 scientific papers, including the first genetic map of the honey bee genome. He works with beekeepers in Indiana to develop better strains of bees. He also served as chairman of the Heartland Apiculture Society, trustee for the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, and was the president of the American Association of Professional Apiculturists. His research focuses mainly on genetic influences on bee behavior, and honey bee health issues.
Introductory Varroa Mite Biology—Part I

Dr. James Tew

Varroa mites – not a new bee pest
Actually, varroa has been attacking honey bees for a long time – just not US bees. After finding varroa on *Apis cerana* (*the Indian honey bee, or Asian honey bee, or the little honey bee*), Oudemans, in Java, Indonesia, gave varroa the earlier name of *Varroa jacobsoni*, in 1904. Varroa mites were first found on honey bees in Japan in 1958, but experts guess that they have been in Japan since 1915. By 1970, varroa infestations were widespread in Europe. With human assistance, the mite finally made their way to Florida in 1987. Though they may seem a new pest, varroa has been afflicting honey bees for a long time.

Figure 1. Adult varroa mites (USDA photo)

Varroa jacobsoni vs. Varroa destructor – what’s in a name?
Not unlike *Disappearing Disease* being renamed *Colony Collapse Disorder*, after all these years of struggling with varroa infestations; we are still trying to correctly identify, name, and refer to it. There is more than one species of Varroa (the genus). It is now apparent that *Varroa jacobsoni* is not the problem mite that we have, but rather its cousin, *Varroa destructor*. The name was changed in 2000, but nothing else has changed.

Regardless of the name, varroa still kills our bees. If we have a varroa infestation, it is said that our colonies are suffering from varoosis – not “Varroasis,” “Varroatosis,” or Varroa disease. Since Varroa is the genus name, the mite can be called varroa (lower case “v”), but not Varroa (upper case “V”). It is also correct to say that our infected colonies suffer from a “varroa infestation or infection.” So there, for those readers who want to dot every jot and tiddle, it is correct to say that our infected colonies suffer from varoosis and that varroa is a problem for both bees and beekeepers.

Varroa’s life cycle
The mature female varroa is dark red-brown and is about 1.5mm in diameter or about the diameter of a broken pencil lead. Compared to the honeybee host, it’s a large parasite. It would roughly be comparable to having a parasite the size of a dinner plate stuck on me, which would make me stand out at a party.

Varroa reproduction is closely allied to bee development. Due to the longer development time, varroa prefers drone pupae, but it can readily develop on worker pupae. Generally, queen cells are unaffected. Female varroa mites survive broodless periods by puncturing intersegmental membranes of mature worker bees and partaking of a blood feast. Mature honey bees generally exhibit some grooming behavior that is intended to remove the pests, but apparently, most mites are able to withstand this behavior. Adult female mites can only live a short time away from her bee host, male mites are unable to live outside the cell.

Figure 2. A pictorial varroa life cycle (USDA Photo)

A healthy worker bee spends 3 days as an egg, 8 days as a larva and prepupa, and nine days as a pupa for an average total of 19.5 – 20 days to complete development. The larva is fed brood food secretions for the length of its development. After 8 days, the larva sends out a chemical cue that incites worker bees to begin capping the cell. The final bee larval molt occurs on the 11-12th day. A mature female mite leaves a nurse bee and enters a worker brood cell 0-18 hours before it is capped. The mite submerges herself in the liquid brood food and breathes through snorkels called peritremes. During this phase, the female mite remains so immobile that she appears to be dead. The female mite remains

(Continued on page 8)
Varroa Mite Biology (Continued from page 7)

in this stuporous state until the worker larva has eaten all the available brood food. Sometime on the 9th day, the mite becomes active and begins to feed on the blood of the larva. If, per chance, the mite does not become active quickly enough, the larva, as it undergoes complete metamorphosis, will entomb the mite in the larval cocoon that is spun as the larva changes to the pupal form. These trapped mites die. The mite, in preparation for feeding, pierces the body wall of the larva and feeds on the draining blood. Interestingly, all individuals in the mite family feed from this one wounded area. White fecal residue is deposited on the comb wall near the wound site. All stages of mite development occur in the protected capped cell. This developmental characteristic has always made chemical control of varroa mites more challenging. The female usually lays one male egg and, over time, lays about four female eggs within the cell. It is unusual for more than a couple of the female eggs to reach maturity. The bee’s blood is the only food on which the mature and immature mites feed. It takes 6.5 days for the male mite to develop while only 5 – 5 ½ days are required for females to develop. Female mite eggs are laid about every 30 hours until a maximum of five eggs are produced. Eggs produced late in the bee’s development cycle will not have time to develop before the worker bee emerges. On the 17-18th day of bee development, the mite’s son and first daughter will reach adulthood. Young adult mites are snow white but both male and female will darken, but the female will become even darker and larger.

Next Quarter—Mating Biology –
Beekeeping Classes Abound—Find One Near You!

Medina County Beekeepers

Instructor: Kim Flottum will have two classes: Wednesday evenings or Saturdays. Students can attend either or both of these sessions once fees are collected. Cost - $60.00 per person or family. Fees include $20.00 MCBA dues for one year, 1 Copy of the Backyard Beekeeper, class handouts and materials. Pre-reservation is required. To reserve your slot call Kim Flottum at 330-722-2021. Once registered, which class you attend is up to you…we have lots of room.

**Wednesday Evenings** – 7 – 9:30 PM  
Feb. 13, Feb. 20, Feb 27, March 6, March 13

**Saturday Sessions** – 9 AM – 3:30 PM  
Feb 16, Feb 23

**Combined Sessions for both**  
Saturday May 11, Class/Beeyard 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Wed July 17 7 PM-9 PM – Harvesting Session

Central Ohio Beekeepers

Two classes offered the evenings of Feb 6,13,20,27 and March 5, 12, 19, 26. For registration details: [www.centralohiobeekeepers.org](http://www.centralohiobeekeepers.org)

East Central Ohio Beekeepers

Classes begin the first Saturday in February and runs each Saturday through end of February from 9 a.m.—noon. An ECOBA membership, workbook, and handout materials are included in the $50.00 fee. Family/household members can attend for an additional $10.00 per person. For more info, contact: info@e-coba.org

Greene County

This course which covers everything from apiary location to seasonal management. Thursdays, February 7, 14, 21; March 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. $40 for Greene County Residents, $50 for non-residents. [www.gcbeekeepers.com](http://www.gcbeekeepers.com)

Richland Area Beekeepers

Bee classes start in February.
[www.richlandareabeekeepers.com](http://www.richlandareabeekeepers.com)

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers

Beginning Beekeeping Classes will start near the end of March or first week in April. Visit their website: [www.richlandareabeekeepers.com](http://www.richlandareabeekeepers.com)

Knox County Beekeepers

Beginners Class: February 9th  
Advanced Beekeeping Class: March 9th  
See website for details.

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association

This 4 session class starts February 6. Cost is $45 which includes 1 year membership in the club and the monthly newsletter. For more information: [www.greaterclevelandbeekeepersassociation.com](http://www.greaterclevelandbeekeepersassociation.com)

Scioto Valley Beekeepers

The SVBA 6th Annual Beekeeping School—April 3, 10, and 17, 2013. The classes, plus field day are offered in Circleville and cost $50, which includes instruction, hands-on experience, ongoing support from mentors and a year membership to Scioto Valley Beekeepers. Open to anyone in Pickaway, Ross, Fayette and Fairfield counties. **Space is limited!** email sciotovalleybeekeepers@yahoo.com for more information or to sign-up
OSBA is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote beekeeping in the state of Ohio. OSBA has a Board of Directors made up of 23 voting members. Eighteen of these members represent each of the nine regions of Ohio. They are the people who represent the membership and your region in all votes taken by the OSBA board regarding business of OSBA. You need to get to know your representatives.

The duties of the Director as listed by the Constitution:

The elected director will work with the beekeepers and local beekeeping associations and clubs in their respective regions to promote and implement the purposes of the OSBA within their regions. The Directors shall work to foster cooperation and collaboration between the local beekeeping associations and clubs in their respective regions. The directors shall have such other duties as assigned by the president or the board of directors. The directors shall attend all board of directors meetings with right of voice and vote on any matter brought before the board of directors. The directors shall report regularly to the Board of Directors regarding activities within their region.

The duties of the Appointed Representatives as listed by the Constitution:

The Regional Representative(s) nominated and confirmed pursuant to Article XI, A. & B. shall have voice and vote as full members of the Board of Directors. They shall serve a 1 year term commencing with the date of the first Board of Directors’ meeting in January and concluding on December 31st of the same year.
Club Corner—Find a Local Association

Ashtabula County Beekeepers
www.facebook.com/AshtabulaCountyBeekeepersAssociation

Harrison County Beekeepers
bobhooker2010@gmail.com

Richland Area Beekeepers
www.richlandareabeekeepers.com

Athens County Area Bee
evabear@mac.com for information.

Highland County Beekeepers
www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers
www.srvbeekeeping.com

Brown County Beekeepers
Joel G. Boothby 937.515.2476

Hocking County Beekeepers
hockingcobeepkeepers@yahoo.com

Scioto Valley Beekeepers
www.scioitovalleybeekeepers.com

Butler County Beekeepers
www.facebook.com/pages/Butler-County-Beekeepers-Association

Jefferson County Beekeepers
Contact: catalina2982@aol.com

Southwestern Ohio Beekeepers
www.swoba.org

Carroll County Beekeepers Assn.
www.thecarrollbee.org

Knox County Beekeepers
www.knoxbees.com

Summit County Beekeepers
www.summitbeekeepers.com

Central Ohio Beekeepers
www.centralohiobeekeepers.org

Lawrence County Beekeepers
reidapiary@bright.net

The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers
www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

Clinton County Beekeepers
buckleyfarm@yahoo.com

Lorain County Beekeepers
www.loraincountybeekeepers.org

Tri-County Beekeepers
www.tricountybeekeepers.org

Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers
www.columbianamahoningbeekeepers.webs.com

Maumee Valley Beekeepers
www.facebook.com/pages/Maumee-Valley-Bee-Keeprers-Association

Tri-State Beekeepers Assn.
www.tristatebeekeepers.com

Coshocton County Beekeepers
Jim Groves jimjoint@local.net

Medina County Beekeepers
www.medinabeekeepers.com

Trumbull County Beekeepers
www.trumbullcountybeekeepers.org

East Central Beekeepers
www.e-coba.org

Miami Valley Beekeepers
www.mvbeekeepers.org

Tuscarawas County Beekeepers
Club
www.tuscarawascountybeecclub.com

Geauga County Beekeepers
www.geaugacountybeekeepers.org

Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers
www.angelfire.com/nb/mvoba/

Warren County Beekeepers
www.warrencountybeekeepers.org/

Greene County Beekeepers
www.gcbeekeepers.com

Morrow County Area Honey Bee
www.facebook.com/pages/Morrow-County-Beekeepers

West Central Ohio Beekeepers
www.wcoba.com

Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers
Roy Roger Seaton 740-432-6612

Portage County Beekeepers
www.Portagecountybeekeepers.com

Snip and Save
Building Your Low Cost Uncapping Tank

Ron Hoopes

When I first began beekeeping I was invited by a neighboring beekeeper to assist in collecting the honey and extracting at their home.

I observed that they placed all their cappings in a container which they said would allow more honey to drain out. He also said they would pull the cappings out later and strain the remaining honey.

When I finally got bees in 1999 and was ready for my first harvest I simply improved somewhat on their idea. I thought all beekeepers were doing the same or similar to this method.

I purchased a new utility sink at one of the big box stores and plumbed it for an opening tank. This seemed like a normal fix that most beekeepers did. Well, when our local beekeepers association, East Central Ohio Beekeepers, ECOBA held their annual "gadget" meeting I took this and found a lot of interest.

So, this is how I constructed my "opening tank". I purchased a utility sink, similar to what you might have in your basement or garage. I recently checked online and found the cost to be between $50 and $100. Mine measures inside 20"x20"x11". They come with an opening for the drain. I purchased the necessary plumbing, an elbow and a nipple to extend the drain to the edge of the tub and then added a "honey gate" purchased from one of the vendors. Just be certain to plumb this to the size of the gate's threads.

Next I purchased two "flat stock" rods to extend from front to rear of the tank on which I hang the frames of honey while opening in preparation for extracting. You need two pieces placed at the correct width to hang the frames on while uncapping. I drilled holes in the rods and tank and attached the two with small bolts with washers. My tank holds 6 frames. I place a piece of wood, 3/4" x 3/4", across these rods to place my frames on edge while opening.

My extractor also holds 6 frames so I can open frames and hang them in the opening tank getting ready to replace those in the extractor when necessary. I place a metal queen excluder in the bottom of the tank to hold the cappings off the bottom to allow better drainage.

I also removed the strainer that is built into the purchased tub and inserted a metal screen strainer made to fit into a sink drain such as this. This strainer is removable and may need to be cleaned of cappings periodically. The original built-in strainer is too difficult to keep clean.

When this is completed you will find you can place a 5 gallon bucket with a strainer below the honey gate and capture the honey draining from the cappings.

At the end of my uncapping process I elevate the back two legs of the opening tank to facilitate the draining process. I also stir the cappings some to allow more draining. I will cover the tub with a clean towel or some other cover and allow this to drain overnight. When finished with extracting and the cappings have drained I take this outside and spray with hot water to clean it.

Another thing I like about this utility tub is that the legs pull out and I place them inside the tub for storage. (Continued on page 28)
Yet Another Overwintering Article

While Varroa, Colony Collapse (CCD), pesticide use, and other pests and diseases will remain problems into the foreseeable future, there is one problem that stands out in beekeeping that leaves all the others in the dust (WINTER LOSSES.) Please understand, I consider (all losses) preventable or beekeeper related.

All beekeeping problems and their solutions are in direct relation to a beekeeper’s experience, attention to colonies and detail, indecision, reaction time, etc. Many new beekeepers confuse experience with years in beekeeping. Time does not necessarily equate to experience, neither does number of colonies equal good beekeeping. Time and number of colonies often confuse novice beekeepers into thinking, if beekeepers of this caliber cannot successfully keep bees then there is no hope for me.

Paying attention to all details involved in beekeeping is what will bring about a desirable ending; Attention to the bees within the colony, look at cells not just foundation, look at flowers not just fields, don’t just clean the bottom board or trays look at them in detail check out the debris. By looking at the outside of the hive, and in the immediate area around a colony, much can be learned, use your eyes, ears and nose in beekeeping. Don’t be in a hurry.

Observing and paying attention to detailed averages in the weather can help determine how long winter be, when the next opportunity we will have to take a look see, the number of warm days, etc.; Observation, early detection and correct diagnoses is the key to successful beekeeping. This is more important in the Fall than any other time.

It is part of human nature to make excuses, and beekeepers are no exception. For example: Bees are going to swarm no matter what you do! That mite treatment does not work! Weather was too hot, to cold! Not enough rain, too much rain! I think part of any class needs to deal with taking responsibility for your apiary.

I know there are some circumstances where the beekeeper is not to blame, for example sabotage or accidents, but with proper planning and prevention some of these can be avoided. Excuses are not a beekeepers friend, they will doom your hobby as being too eventful, too expensive, or any other excuse. The number of beekeepers who postpone winter preparations until October or November would surprise many in the beekeeping industry. The only reason we are aware here at QRC is because of our business.

Last winter was not typical in Ohio, temperatures were above normal, and the resulting winter losses were low. What were the lessons we needed to take away from this previous winter? Nothing much new. In milder winters bees consume less honey to stay warm, honey is the fuel used to generate necessary heat to maintain colony conditions. Last winter’s temperatures were also conducive to adequate cleansing flights reducing effects of dysentery and Nosema. Colonies built up quickly because of an early spring, causing some improperly managed colonies to swarm as early as March. It also created great opportunities for many beekeepers to create splits which in turn made a surplus of honey this season, yes surplus in these drought conditions, again no excuses.

The downside was that the winter was kind to all; Small Hive Beetles were everywhere. I do not doubt that next year we see increased cases of SHB as a result and this (may) linger for a few years until populations hopefully fall back to pre-2012 levels. Also Varroa, fared very well, I think 2012 inspection reports will indicate both pests will have elevated levels as a result of the mild winter. Overall we know mild winters, or keeping colonies warm during winter, has a very positive influence on colonies and their ability to survive winter. This concept is important to beekeeping.

Everyone in beekeeping has experienced winter losses and its related nightmares. It frightens most beekeepers with their investment, and strikes a chord of fear right into the hearts of most newbees. At the Lorain County Fair, in August, The Lorain County Beekeepers Association has two very attractive observation hives which during fair week fly free. Night temps can be cool. When the hives were first installed, we had condensation on the glass every morning along with some dead and dying bees. The remedy was simple, place some Styrofoam on the outside of the glass in the evening, and the next morning the glass was dry, bees were healthy and the public was happy. The moisture problem was created by the heat within the colony and the cooler temperatures outside. Wood will absorb just so much moisture until it becomes saturated. When this happens in a colony, the resulting condensation can kill bees. Bees can take the cold but...
cannot survive cold and wet. Heat and cold are stress factors in colonies and result in opposite effects, during hot months bees expand and in cold months they constrict. Winter has a more detrimental effect on a colony because it can only constrict so much and for so long.

To me the greatest threat is Winter. All other bee losses can be better controlled if colonies could be better protected from long cold winters. Short of everyone moving colonies (and beekeeper) to a warmer climate during the super freeze, we need better methods to protect our colonies for the three winter months. A l Root, in 1920s, used a double walled box with cork between outside and inside wall, however it was too big and bulky to be used year round. Currently, there are several types of hive wraps available; plastic, waxed cardboard, and even Styrofoam boxes. One company is developing a paint for inside and outside of the hive, a Thermal Ceramic Coating. Maybe someone should develop a solar panel heat source.

I would like to place several colonies in used refrigerators with only enough space cut in the side for the entrance to stick through...try to explain that one to your neighbor, a refrigerator graveyard. We also have set up a pavilion. Next year we plan to set about 15 colonies on these just prior to winter. We plan to wrap the whole pavilion with plastic leaving only enough space for the colony entrance to stick out, keeping such colonies and others for several years could serve as a baseline on what can be done more practically. There is one thing for sure and that is there is no shortage of entrepreneurs in beekeeping.

It is easy to instruct beekeepers on basic beekeeping issues during spring and summer. We say that new beekeepers look at the colonies every 7 to 10 days, and experienced beekeepers should take a peek every 2 to 4 weeks depending on the time of year, nectar flows, and swarming season or as needed. When you stop to think of all that can happen to a colony in just a few days' time, supersede, swarm, full supers, pesticide kills, just to name a few, it makes keeping bees during winter even more challenging. These same beekeepers need to manage colonies in such a way that at some point the bees must survive for up to 5 or 6 months minimal or no intervention. At some point in the fall, you will have one last peek that will have to do until early spring, in other words one last chance to get it right or face the consequences. You can fix any apiary problem during the 6 warm weather months, the rest of the year the bees survive on your preparations not theirs. Let me put all this in perspective; years ago 5 -10 % loss was acceptable, not good we lived with it. Now, 25 % - 30 % is acceptable, not good but I believe the operative word here is “acceptable”. I know of no other business where this high loss is acceptable. The average colony losses, nationally, for the past five years is 29.8%. The US has approximately 2.49 million colonies of bees, so we are losing about 750,000 colonies of bees each winter. According to the ODA, there are 32,740 colonies (registered) in Ohio. Using the same figures, Ohio beekeepers are losing about 10,914 colonies of bees every winter, with an average replacement cost of almost $1,000,000. Even if we were to eliminate all diseases, pests and chemically associated bee problems, we would still have winter losses. No doubt they would be significantly lower than current levels, as winter only complicates detection and treatment of other colony death causes.

So what can be done? At the least, colonies need enough stores for the worst winters, about 14 deep frames of capped honey or feed, or its equivalent in your hive configuration. By fall, beekeepers have had 7 months to look for mites and “I didn’t see any mites” is not an answer, you either have them or not. In 2011 approximately 24% of all bees in Ohio had Varroa, it will be worse in 2012 and therefore timely treatments must be used to be effective. I do not like prophylactic treatments, however unless your colonies were checked for Nosema you should have used a (timely) treatment for this disease. Colonies should not be airtight, some ventilation is needed to keep condensation under control. I suggest beekeepers shim up the backside of the inner cover about ¼ inch and make sure the telescoping lid does not close off the shimmed area. Beekeepers should consider insulating the hive with the best products they have available, for example, 4’X8’X2” sheets of Styrofoam cut to fit, regular insulation with a tarpaper wrap on the outside, waxed cardboard with insulation on the inside. Don’t be afraid to try things both inside and out! When considering ventilation and insulation think of it in respect to your own home. If snow melts from the roof there is a heat loss through the roof and insulation is not adequate. The attic will need better ventilation to remove excess moisture from this dead space between living quarters and the roof or condensation will compromise the home or in this case bees.

Another aspect of beekeeping that is often overlooked, if the health of your colonies are in question unless you physically take a look see, then do so, even in winter. What harm can be done, if their health is in question without intervention.

Have a great 2013 season
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In the Fall of 2010, I read an article in the Columbus Dispatch about becoming a beekeeper and taking a beekeeping class. Knowing that I was about to have a serious surgery and I would still be off work at that time, I decided I would attend the beekeeping class. I read actively about becoming a beekeeper during the winter of 2010, and I grew eager to get involved in beekeeping. I spoke with a local beekeeper who was teaching a beekeeping class for my county, Muskingum. The class would be held the four Saturdays in February 2011 in Buckeye Lake, which is 30 minutes closer than driving to Columbus. Thus, I decided to enroll in the East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association classes.

February came and I and 20 other students attended the training. During this time, I decided to buy a couple of Georgia packages in the Spring. I prepared the necessary equipment to set up a couple of hives behind my house. Living in a subdivision with neighbors on three sides, I decided to put the hives where they were hidden and out of the way.

My beekeeping journey began when the bees arrived in late April. We installed the packages on a rainy Friday evening. We invited some close friends and called the evening “The Bee Coming Out Party”. The two packages were installed into the hives and miraculously no one was stung, other than the beekeeper who was showing me how to install the colonies.

I continued working with these bees throughout 2011; I had read and learned that you should talk to your neighbors about your “Beekeeping Hobby” and explain to them that the bees pose no imminent danger. I spoke with my neighbors and two out of the three explained their concerns, but, none of them said “We hate them”. My neighbor who lives the right of my house explained that he found a couple of bees in the pool skimmer and that his wife didn’t exactly like bees, but, that’s okay with him, she’ll be fine. My thought at this time was, when I get honey next year I’ll bring all my neighbors some and they’ll all love the bees then.

The bees went into the winter of 2011 heavy and I had a good feeling about their survival. The winter, though mild, came and then we began the Spring of 2012. I lost one hive and the other was still strong and booming. Spring brought everything ahead of schedule. On March 13th I removed a colony from an old barn and now could replace the hive I had lost over the winter. On March 22nd I removed another hive from an abandoned house, and these too were placed in my backyard. I now had my overwintered hive and two nucs.

My bees continued to thrive in my yard. All three colonies were active and things were going great. Then came the morning of Sunday April 22, 2012. As I was walking toward my shed, I looked over at my bees and noticed a lot of dead bees on the landing board of my biggest and strongest hive. I instantly knew that this was not normal, I walked over to take a closer look. What I found was a couple of dozen dead bees and a white powder which appeared to have been thrown against the side and front of my hive. After a few seconds I realized my bees had been poisoned! I walked back to my house, went inside and told my wife. She asked how, and I explained that there was a white powder on the hive and now a lot of dead bees.

As I stood in the kitchen, the only person that came to mind was the neighbor to my right. Had he done this? Well, I would find out. I walked over to his front door. I knocked and waited; as I waited I looked around at his property, plants and grass area. It was then that I noticed the “White Powder” that looked a lot like what I had found on my hive. The powder was also all over his plants and mulch area. That is when I knew my neighbor was responsible for my dead bees. The front door finally opened; there stood my neighbor, stuttering as he got up the courage to speak to me, “What do you need?” he said. “Are you the reason for my dead bees? I asked. He said his wife and grandchildren are allergic to them and slammed the door in my face. My neighbor had gone out of his way to attack my bees! His yard is surrounded by a 6 ½ foot privacy fence, and my hives are 15-20 feet inside my property line.

Having just learned that my neighbor was responsible for killing a full overwintered colony of bees was not easy to swallow. My first thought was I should just break him down like a cheap shotgun, but the other side of me said to be rational and let the authorities handle the situation. I returned to my house, retrieved a plastic baggie and went to my hive to gather and preserve some of these bees. I called a beekeeping

(Continued on page 18)
Winter Feeding Method

I have used this method for the last three years as emergency feeding of my ten beehives. There are many descriptions on the internet showing different methods of feeding bees for winter survival.

My method is based on looking at my bees in each hive throughout the winter months — which I classify as late November, December, January, and most of February. To look at the honey bees, throughout the mentioned months, requires the beekeeper to have empty deep supers for each hive in your apiary. These deeps should be installed on top of each hive, with the inner cover and outer cover on top of these empty deeps. This arrangement will allow you to remove the outer cover and lift the inner cover to view what is happening with your bees without causing drafts on the winter cluster. This method allows for inspection no matter what the weather is outside (except when raining.) It is vital to see if your bees have enough stores to survive the winter. During this time, there will be days which may get up to 60 degrees F – this would allow your bees to take cleansing flights as well as to possibly move to new stores of honey (assuming there is no brood.) If there is brood, they will not leave the brood.

If the honey bees do not leave the brood for new stores, you have the possibility of your bees dying from starvation, especially during February. It is easy to see what is going on with your bees. Look into the extra deep super to see if the bees are up on top of the frames. If you see this, you need to feed your bees. My feeding method is to make my own fondant to place inside the deep super on top of the exposed frames.

The following is the fondant recipe:

Invert Sugar Recipe

4 cups plus 6 Tablespoons (2 lb. 3 oz.) extra fine granulated white sugar

2 cups (16 fl. oz.) water – non-chlorinated, if possible

¼ teaspoon powdered citric acid

Put all this in a non-reactive pan (glass, stainless steel, ceramic), stir it gently constantly, and bring to a boil over medium heat. Add a candy thermometer and, without stirring, over medium heat, bring the mixture to 236 degrees – soft ball stage. This will take quite a while, but keep a close eye on it. Remove from heat, cool a little, and go on with patty making process.

Add this to powdered sugar a little at a time in a mixer with bread beaters. Keep checking for firm consistency and put in jar lids to feed to bees.

Place fondant filled jar lids on top bars near the cluster.
friend, advised him of the situation and asked him to come over to my apiary. I then called the Muskingum County Sheriff’s Office and asked for a deputy to come to my house for a report.

Then I contacted Dana Stahlman and asked for his advice. He suggested that I report the matter to the local bee inspector and to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. So, I contacted my local inspector, reported the incident and asked that he come to my apiary. I reported the incident to Barb Bloetscher of the ODA Apiary Section. She explained that killing bees is no different than someone going into a farmer’s field and killing his cows. Bees produce a marketable product and nobody has the right to kill bees.

The ODA sent an investigator. He took soil samples from both properties. The inspector said that it appeared as though the “neighbor” had first sprayed an herbicide, which had discolored and killed the grass 7-10 days earlier, and when that did not kill the bees the so called “white powder,” believed to be an insecticide, had been added within the past 24 hours. The insecticide was then tracked into the hives, and within a few hours the hive was contaminated and the fate of this colony was death. When I finally opened up the hive, only a few bees were alive—they were sluggish, but, alive. I found the queen towards the middle surrounded by her off-spring. In order to protect my two nucs, I closed off the hive and later that day I burned the hive and all of its contents.

The incident on April 22nd is not over. I have hired an attorney, and we are currently taking the “neighbor” to court and suing him for his actions on that day. The “Overwintered Colony” was a valuable asset not only to me, but, the area that it covered. If you take anything away from this, I hope you remember one thing, “DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS?” and do they understand the importance of the Honey Bee?
Changes in Beekeeping Over My Lifetime

Dana Stahlman

Change is taking place each and every day. There is nothing new about change. However, when put into the prospective of the accumulation of changes in one’s life time, it is shocking to compare what used to be with what is now.

I began to think about this topic when Sheila St. Clair asked me to speak at their fall meeting. I was born into a commercial beekeeping family in Paulding County Ohio in 1938. As a young boy, I knew the Stoller family. I also went to the Ohio State Fair with my uncle in 1949 to visit the honey display area. Everything was big to me at that time and it was special. Little did I realize that among the people I was meeting included some of those now in the Ohio Beekeeping Hall of Fame. Beekeeping in Northwest Ohio was big business. There were many people keeping bees for a living and I saw nothing unusual about being a beekeeper, except as a kid, I did not see my future being a beekeeper.

Some of you can share thoughts of seeing trains pouring out soot and smoke – and hopefully you did not live too close to a railroad track. And some of you remember when all air planes had propellers and it took a long time to get from one place to another – no interstate highways. Change has been good. Our life span has been increased – better medicine and hospitals. Computers and cars all go faster and faster. But, as beekeepers we need to look at the total picture.....

And having lived in a period when science was more interested the length of the bee’s proboscis – and efforts to breed for proboscis length and to produce better nectar crops for honey bees to, to the current science of trying to produce a flying robot with a brain that governs a honey bee’s vision and sense of smell and acting like a bee -- mechanical pollination of crops. And then throw in research with words unknown 40 years ago such as RNAsi and genetic shuffling and honey bee genome and quantitative trait loci and much more. I guess to be current; a beekeeper needs to learn a new vocabulary.

The current obsession with new gadgets, facebook, twitter, and the like are moving us into another world. Beekeepers of the past were more isolated and more independent. Today’s beekeeper is dependent upon the scientific community to provided answers to why bees are not as healthy and why bees are dying.

I have separated this article into several areas of change: Farming practices, Introduced pest and Bees

Farming

Farming practices have changed greatly over the past 50 years. Most of these changes have also affected beekeepers. The small family farm is long gone, as are the pastures that provided grazing land for milk cows. Some of pastures can still be found in Amish country but almost nowhere else. The small dairies such as Meadow Gold disappeared as large mega-farms developed. Mega-farms specialize in feeding lots and confined quarters,. Specialized computer controlled feeding has changed the landscape -- crops that supported the small farms (clover, alfalfa and silage) are now supplemented with grain fed livestock. In fact the science of balancing the food given to the animals is big business. Ohio is now corn, soybean and wheat farming almost exclusively.

When I started beekeeping – I really never started, it was born into me – Paulding County was one of the leading honey producing counties in Ohio. Paulding County, located in Northwest Ohio in what is called the “Black Swamp” area, is so flat that drainage ditches are required to drain the land (even today). Many farmers grew sweet clover for seed crops and hay. It was not unusual for a hive of bees to produce five full deep supers of surplus honey during June, July and August (yellow and white sweet clover). The honey was almost water white or very light amber. How many of you have seen a hive that has produced 300 to 400 pounds of surplus honey in a single year? It was not a rare occurrence

It was also a great pheasant hunting area in Ohio. The ditches provide much cover and extended the nectar collecting period. I might mention that this area is still one of the outstanding honey producing areas in Ohio although the amount of honey produced per hive has dropped considerably and large fields of sweet clover have disappeared. Still some beekeepers in the area talk about hives producing 200 pounds of honey.

This change was gradual and economic. Farms became larger, produce cash crops, require larger farm equipment and require less labor. Ag business has become very specialized with large companies now controlling thousands of acres of productive farm land. Being businesses they also seek to produce crops that

(Continued on page 28)
**Telling the Bees**

This is an old tradition among beekeepers to “Tell the Bees” whenever a change happens in the beekeepers family. You may Google “Telling the Bees” and find a poem from the 1800’s about this subject. You will also find some history on the subject. What OSBA wants to do is to recognize any beekeepers that have recently died.

All associations or individuals are asked to forward the name and home county of the beekeeper and the date of death if available. Any personal info may also be beneficial 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 proper recognition will be made.

You may notify Ron Hoopes, Memorial Committee Chair at: beefarm2003@AOL.COM or cell 740.624.1683 if you have notices to pass on to the newsletter.

**Using Hive Products in Personal Care**

As a beekeeper, you are fortunate to have some of the most expensive ingredients for personal care products available for mere pennies. Really? Absolutely! Beeswax and propolis. A well-known catalog/on-line supplier, is selling propolis for over $4.40 cents per ounce! 1 ounce of “filtered” beeswax is $1.50. And to think that for an investment of less than $6 (the price of a propolis trap) you too can have clean propolis at your fingertips.

What else do you need to make personal-care products? Beeswax, propolis, and some sort of carrier oil either liquid (olive, grapeseed, almond, etc.) or solid (coconut, jojoba, cocoa). Some people like to add coloring or fragrance. Since I use these products for myself, I don’t like to include additional fragrances. Nothing like wearing a highly fragrance item when you go out to visit the bees...you're a walking target.

You will also need some type of mixing containers. I prefer either metal or glass. If you plan to use a microwave then metal would not be appropriate. I like to use a double boiler, or waterbath to melt or heat the products. Most of these items do not need extremely high temperatures in order to liquefy. Beeswax is flammable, so be careful around open flames.

I infuse my oils with propolis or certain herbal additions, like calendula petals. I just put a handful of the stuff in a jar, fill it up with my carrier oil (or a combination of oils) and let it sit on a shelf, not in direct sunlight. I usually freeze my propolis first, then I use a specially reserved small coffee/herb grinder, and with a few quick taps on the switch, powderize the propolis. A word of caution: If you grind it for too long, it will melt to your coffee grinder and gum up the works.

What types of oil to use? Well, that’s your choice. You can buy many of these oils at any large grocery store. While you may get a discount if you buy larger quantities through mail order, starting off small is usually the best way to practice.

(Continued on page 26)
Do You Have Comb Honey?

How many times have you been selling honey and someone ask, "Do you have comb honey"?

Well, this happens to me quite often and usually I have to answer "No". Why do we seldom produce this product while it seems many customers would like to have it?

The reason I don't set my hives up for comb honey production is due to a number of factors.

First I have to have my honey super set with frames of undrawn thin foundation ready in the early spring. It is so much easier to just set my honey supers on with drawn foundation from the past season.

Why in the early spring? The workers are primed to draw out the foundation in the early part of the season as part of the process in preparing for nectar storage, brood comb for the queen and always preparing for that spring swarming season.

So, how are we going to prepare for this sought after product? Shallow supers need to have the frames ready with thin unwired foundation. We need to place these on strong colonies with no other choices for honey storage. The bees would rather work previously drawn comb.

A good colony to place these supers on is a recently captured prime swarm. A prime swarm is the first swarm issued from a colony in early spring. These are the swarms we see hanging in trees that look to be about 4 pound or more of bees.

Do not place a queen excluder under these supers until they are being well drawn out. You want to allow the bees full access to these supers without any resistance. During a good nectar flow these supers can fill rapidly if your colony population is high.

After the frames are filled and ready for harvest lightly smoke them or just brush the bees off. Too much smoke will cause the workers to open the cells to gorge on the honey preparing to leave. Do not leave the frames on longer than necessary as the workers will track across it leaving footprint stains.

During harvest cut the comb into squares that fit the plastic comb honey holders available from vendors.

Allow these cut pieces to drain all excess honey over a wire screen or another draining system you fabricate. Ideally when they are placed in the container there is no honey draining from open cells.

After filling the containers place them in a freezer for at least 24 hours. This will destroy any wax moth eggs or larva on the comb. Yes, there may be some so don't take a chance on them showing themselves in the container just as you are about to make a sale...

Any comb that is not perfect may be used for "chunk" honey. Chunk honey is comb honey placed in a jar and the void around it filled with liquid honey. I believe the chunk of comb in the jar should be no less than 3/4 of the total weight in the jar. That is, just because we have a small piece of comb honey in the jar it does not qualify for it to be called "Chunk Honey."

There are various methods for producing comb honey such as using Ross Rounds and it is still possible to purchase the old basswood boxes and producing traditional products. Whatever, method you choose you will find your product will demand a premium price from your customers.

There are a number of books on producing comb honey with much more details than I can list in this news article. I like the Richard Taylor "Comb Honey Book" but there are other books by Roger Morse, Eugene Killiam and others I am sure. Find a book you like, read it and apply their methods. Perhaps the next time you are asked, "Do you have comb honey?" you will answer, "Yes I do this year."

And remember, preparing for comb honey cannot be put off until later in the year...now is the time to begin.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OSBA 2013 Activity Calendar</strong></td>
<td><strong>First Quarter 2013 Conferences/Seminars</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 26, 2013</strong></td>
<td><strong>January 8-12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January Board Meeting</strong></td>
<td>North American Beekeeping Conference: <a href="http://www.nabeekeepingconference.com/">www.nabeekeepingconference.com/</a></td>
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<td>United Methodist Church in Reynoldsburg at 12:00. The address is 1636 Graham Rd. 43068. Anyone is welcome to attend.</td>
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<td><strong>February 9, 2013</strong></td>
<td>February 2</td>
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<td><strong>OSBA Honey Judging Class.</strong></td>
<td>Mid Ohio Valley Beekeeper’s Expo: <a href="http://www.angelfire.com/nb/movba/expo2013.html">www.angelfire.com/nb/movba/expo2013.html</a></td>
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<td>For details go to our website: <a href="http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org">www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org</a> or contact Terry Lieberman-Smith at: <a href="mailto:osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com">osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>June 1</strong></td>
<td>February 15-16</td>
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<td><strong>OSBA Summer Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Western PA Beekeeping Seminar: <a href="http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/pdf/temp/WPA2013Brochure.pdf">www.pastatebeekeepers.org/pdf/temp/WPA2013Brochure.pdf</a></td>
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<td>Dr. Greg Hunt from Purdue University will be the guest speaker. The meeting will be held in Cambridge. The address is: Prichard Laughlin Civic Center, 7033 Glenn Hwy. Cambridge, OH 43725.</td>
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<td><strong>July 28– August 4</strong></td>
<td>February 23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OSBA at the Ohio State Fair</strong></td>
<td>Indiana Bee School X: <a href="http://indianabeekeeper.com/contact_us/indiana_bee_school">http://indianabeekeeper.com/contact_us/indiana_bee_school</a></td>
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<td>OSBA will have a 10 x 10 booth -- Club and Vendor tables are available. Honey Judging too!</td>
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<td><strong>November 2</strong></td>
<td>March 1 and 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OSBA Fall Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Tri-County Beekeepers Conference: <a href="http://www.TriCountyBeekeepers.org">www.TriCountyBeekeepers.org</a> Stop by the OSBA Table!</td>
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<td>Stay tuned for Details!</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
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<td>Bluegrass Beekeeping School: <a href="http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/bees/index.htm">http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/bees/index.htm</a></td>
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<td>March 23</td>
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<td>SWOBA Beekeeper Conference: <a href="http://www.swoba.org/index.htm#897274891">www.swoba.org/index.htm#897274891</a> Stop by the OSBA Table</td>
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## OSBA Life Members

The following beekeepers have shown their support of OSBA by becoming Life Members.

Life Membership consists of a one-time payment to OSBA of $160.

Consider showing your support of OSBA by adding your name to the list in 2013!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ray Alley</th>
<th>Merle Griffith</th>
<th>Dora Richardson</th>
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<td>William Allinder</td>
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Education is one of the best ways to save money. Yes you may spend some money to get the education, but the dividends are never-ending.

When you join your local club and the state organization, you might be paying a total of about let’s say $35. However, between your associations newsletter, the OSBA newsletter, the periodical subscription discounts you receive as a club member, and all of the great sharing of information between beekeepers, the initial investment is well worth the return.

Subscribing to the periodicals *Bee Culture* and *American Bee Journal* will help you keep up to date with beekeeping across the country. These publications offer informative how-to articles, and, great basic beekeeping techniques. Once again, you can get a significant discount to these periodicals if you are a member of an association either local or OSBA. See if you can fill out the crossword puzzle on page 24.

Enroll in the OSBA Master Beekeeper Program. Even if your goal is not to become a Master Beekeeper Instructor, this program will challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and broaden your beekeeping education. It will encourage you to attend seminars, and conferences in Ohio and the surrounding states.

Use this winter time to help develop new skills and get yourself ready for a wonderful beekeeping year. Why not enroll in the honey judging class and learn techniques to help you earn First Place blue ribbons at your county fair.

Take advantage of the many upcoming conferences and purchase your equipment ahead of time. Many of the vendors will bring your order to the conference, and not charge you shipping and handling. Woodenware is heavy. I would much rather spend money on equipment than shipping. Also, make sure to add honey containers to your order. Sometimes the shipping cost on a box of squeeze bottles costs more than the containers themselves.

One of the keys to a fun and successful beekeeping season, is to stay ahead of the bees. Make sure you have enough equipment, so that you are not in your garage burning the midnight oil building equipment just to stay ahead of your girls.

PS: Need trees for your yard? Go to your local Soil and Water Conservation Dept. to get great deals on trees. For example: [www.miamiswcd.org](http://www.miamiswcd.org) or [www.co.greene.oh.us/Soils/forms/TreeWeb.pdf](http://www.co.greene.oh.us/Soils/forms/TreeWeb.pdf)

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**No Teaspoons Allowed**  
*(recipes that really use honey)*

**Spicy Honey Cookies**

2/3 c. sugar  
1/2 c. butter  
1/2 c. honey  
1 egg  
2 1/4 c. flour  
1 T. orange zest  
1 t. ground ginger  
1/2 t. cardamom  
1/2 t. baking soda  
1/2 t. baking powder  
Sugar for coating

Beat sugar and butter until creamy. Add honey and egg, blend. Stir together flour, zest, spices, baking soda and powder. Add to sugar mixture and mix until well blended. Cover and chill for a few hours.

Pre-heat oven to 350 F. Roll dough into 1 inch balls, coat in sugar, and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Slightly flatten. Bake for 8-10 minutes, or until slightly golden. Cool on wire racks.

Aprox. 4 dozen

---

**Honey Run Apiaries**

2013 NWC Queens - Beekeeping Equipment  
Ross Round Supers - Sundance Pollen Traps  
Hive Kits -  
2 Deep Complete $105  
3 Medium Complete $127

Order now for Spring!

[www.HoneyRunApiaries.com](http://www.HoneyRunApiaries.com)

Delphos, Ohio 419-371-1742
As a club member, you will receive a discount on your subscription to Bee Culture and American Bee Journal.

Here is a crossword with hints from 12 months of both magazines.

If you need to “look up the answer, the magazine and issue are listed next to each hint.

Have fun, and remember to subscribe today….you will enjoy reading great articles every month.

Great Reading Throughout the Year–Subscribe Today

As a club member, you will receive a discount on your subscription to Bee Culture and American Bee Journal.

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Editor’s Note

What happened to 2012? The time flew past with the speed of bees bubbling out of a swarming hive. OSBA was abuzz with new activity; the Masters Program, the newsletter, OSBA’s return to the State Fair, the summer conference, the fall conference, and here we are at the start of a new year.

New Year and new features in the newsletters. I have invited the Master Beekeeper Instructors to each write an article for the newsletter so that they can share with you some of their beekeeping experiences. We will also have a “how to build” column for all of our do-it-yourselfer beekeepers. This month we have a list of contact information for all of the local Ohio bee clubs, along with a list of beekeeping classes that will be taught this spring through those associations.

The Master Beekeeper Program is moving along with over 100 participants. Not only can these students earn credit ours by attending Ohio conferences, but they can also now earn credit hours when they attend other states’ conferences. The OSBA website has updates as to classes that count toward accreditation.

We are already planning the summer and fall conferences with great speakers, topics, and vendors. Plus a few fun surprises along the way! 2013 will not be a dull year.

So get going on your beekeeping plans now, catch up on all your bee reading, and build all your equipment so that when spring arrives you will be ahead of the bees. Now is the perfect time to start planning your entries for the state fair.

I would like to thank all of our advertisers. Please support them during the coming year.

Using Hive Products (Continued from page 20)

I like olive oil, grapeseed oil, and almond oil, because that’s what I have on my pantry shelves. I don’t use extra virgin olive oil for personal care products because I don’t particularly like to smell like salad dressing, and it gives a slightly green tint to the final product. Plain old olive oil works just fine and is easier on the budget.

You will also need some sort of containers in which to put your final product. I’m cheap, so I like to use repurposed clean small jars or other appropriate containers. Just make sure that if you are giving them as a gift, there is enough space for a label that includes an ingredient list and your name. If you plan to sell the product, then you will need to use approved jars and labels.

One of the best parts about making these personal-care products, is that if you don’t like the final result, you can just put it back, melt it, and adjust the proportions. Even when I measure, sometimes the final product is too thick or too thin. Obviously I’m not paying as much attention as it should be when I’m measuring. Either that or I didn’t read my note that I so carefully wrote on the side of the recipe. If a product is too gooey, add more hard wax (beeswax, coconut oil or cocoa butter). If the mixture is too hard to add more of a liquid oil to it. You can experiment to your hearts content.

Another reason to make your own personal care products is that you know exactly what goes into the final balm or salve. Things like dimethicone, sulfates, propoyl glycol, etc, won’t wind up on your skin. Have you ever looked at the label of some of your skincare or haircare products? It helps to be a chemist to decipher and pronounce the ingredients.

A basic rule of thumb is two parts oil to one part beeswax. That should be your starting point. After I cleaned my wax cappings, I remelt them and then pour the wax into 1 oz molds (an old plastic ice cube tray). That way they are pre-measured and ready for use. Those big blocks of wax are great for fair entries, but a little unwieldy for making personal care products.

Next month I’ll include some of the recipes that I like to use when making personal care products. In the interim, you can search online under beeswax salve or handcream recipes and find a plethora of information. I also like the “Herbal Remedies for Dummies” book...it’s a great starting point for your new adventure. Your Public Library, can also be a great resource of books.
2013 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

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

Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2013 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:

Floyd Ostrowski, OSBA Secretary
3321 Buckhaven Dr.
Richfield, OH 44286

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
  - Club Corner—Contacts Around the State
  - Snip & Save Beekeeping Techniques
  - And much more!

Low Cost Uncapping Tank (Continued from page 12)

place the entire tub in a large trash bag for the off season.

This might be another winter project for you and will take less than an hour to construct once you have all the parts collected.

Have any questions? My email is: beefarm2003@AOL.COM

Changes in Beekeeping (Continued from page 19)

require less expense to grow. The chemical industry has invested greatly in providing products to kill pest that reduce yields and new technology in genetic engineering is quickly being adapted to general farming practices. Since this is a money driven system, the Ag business community has developed large public relations efforts to make these changes more acceptable to the general public.

And then there is the issue of disappearing land available for honey bees to forage for nectar.

Next Quarter….The Effect on Beekeeping

WANTED

County Bee Inspectors in Miami Valley area for the 2013 season.

Looking for knowledgeable beekeepers in several counties in the Miami Valley area to be a County Apiary Inspector.

If you are interested or have suggestions, please contact Barbara Bloetscher, ODA State Apiarist at Bbloetscher@agri.ohio.gov or 614-728-6373 and/or Cindy McGinnis at same number.

Visit us on the Web:
www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org