OSBA Summer Meeting
Friday June 8th and Saturday June 9th, 2012
Miami University—Oxford Ohio

REGISTRATION FEES
$15.00 Pre-registration, OSBA members
$20.00 Registration at the door for OSBA members
$30.00 Registration at the door for non-members
Lunch can be purchased on site or its just a short walk to local restaurants

FRIDAY EVENING JUNE 8TH
5:30 to 6:00 registration
Tour Langstroth’s cottage, Alex Zomcheck’s Apiary, and enjoy the social hour.

SATURDAY JUNE 9TH
8:00 - 9:00  Registration (coffee, orange juice, pastries)
9:00 - 9:20  President’s Welcome & Introductions
9:20 - 9:30  Break (Visit the Vendors)
10:00 - 10:45  Break-out Session I: Topics: Beginning Beekeeping, Increasing Your Hives with Splits and Nucs, Marketing Your Honey, and Getting Ready for Winter
10:45 -11:00  Break (Visit the Vendors)
11:00-11:45  Break-out Session II : Topics: Beginning Beekeeping, Apitherapy, Inspecting Your Hives, and Soap and Candle making
12:00 - 1:00  Lunch
1:00 - 1:45  Break-out Session III: Topics: Hive inspection for the Certified Apprentice Beekeeper Program, Controlling Pests of the Hive, Meadmaking, and Fall and Winter Management.
1:45 - 2:00  Break (Visit the Vendors)
2:00 - 2:45  Break-out Session IV: Topics: Hive inspection for the Certified Apprentice Beekeeper Program, Removing Bees from Buildings, Reviewing Your 1st Year in Beekeeping, and Understanding the OQI
2:45 - 3:00  Break (Visit the Vendors)
3:00 - 3:30  Q&A with a Panel of Experienced Beekeepers
3:30 - 4:00  Closing Remarks and Drawings

See Page 6 for Registration Form—Check out our website for updates

Special thanks to Alex Zomcheck and the Butler County Beekeepers Association for sponsoring this meeting.
Many compliments have come my way since the start of the year. I would like to remind everyone we have just begun to turn things around. First, what we are accomplishing is not something for which I should be getting credit. We have an OSBA team in place who wants to do things for Ohio beekeepers. Each and every member of this team is responsible for what happens – good or bad. As with any organization, OSBA is having growing pains.

Second, things that OSBA does will be transparent to all. Since the adoption of the amendments to the Constitution at the Fall meeting, OSBA is now represented by 23 individuals that make up the OSBA board. The OSBA Board determines the policies and direction the organization will take in representing Ohio beekeepers. As the elected President, it is my job to see that the board is kept informed and given the opportunity to express ideas and thoughts through their votes to give me direction in which to carry out my duties.

I do not expect all members of the OSBA Board to agree with all the ideas and plans presented to it. Your board represents you! Let them know what OSBA should be doing in your opinion. The newsletter and web site are yours. The newsletter editor and the web master are open for suggestions for improvement.

Let me share some of the highlights of the first two months of this year.

1. OSBA is responding to a person, also a beekeeper, who wrote to County Commissioners encouraging them to eliminate support for local county bee inspectors. The text of his letter can be found on our website, along with the response OSBA sent to the 88 County Commissioners. If you know a County Commissioner, share your thoughts on the importance of honey bee inspections or write to your local commissioners. Direct local contact is much better than a letter from me.

2. Dr. Reed Johnson, with OSU, has proposed a research Project: There's an old saw in beekeeping that poorly managed bees in a good location will be more productive than well managed bees in a poor location. But what makes a good location? And, with the recent rise in urban beekeeping, how do urban and suburban apiary locations compare to rural locations? We believe that we can test the effect of location on hive success and productivity along an urban-rural gradient using GIS mapping techniques and surveys of beekeepers. This research will be conducted by graduate student, Doug Sponsler under the direction of Dr. Johnson. The OSBA Board was surveyed and voted to support this research using funds that were encumbered and carried on OSBA books for use only by the OSU Bee Lab. See page 12 for more details. Results will be published in the OSBA newsletter this fall.

3. OSBA participated in the Ohio Power Show in Columbus, Ohio in late January. We discovered that much must be done in several areas:
   a) OSBA needs to find the names and addresses of beekeepers in Ohio who are willing to rent bees for pollination because we had inquiries from some orchard and produce growers regarding where to find bees.
   b) OSBA needs to work with other groups with allied interest in honey bees. Groups such as gardeners, growers, tree trimmers, landscape designers, city zoning planning commissions, Farm Bureau, land conservation groups, and the general public.
   c) I gave talks at the Ohio Power Show about honey bees and 99% of the people attending these talks had no interest in keeping honey bees but they are concerned about the plight of honey bees. The reason for not keeping bees themselves was almost always – bee sting. OSBA needs to provide the general public with positive information about honey bees and what we had at our

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President’s Letter (Continued from page 2)

booth – coloring books, recipe books and a general pamphlet about honey bees – was all from West Virginia that we picked up at the MOVA meeting in Parkersburg. OSBA needs to look at developing its own materials for handouts at these important events.

4. OSBA has just started to get the Master Beekeeper Program and the Ohio Queen Initiative off the ground. It takes a lot of effort to manage and plan for the success of these programs.

5. OSBA membership has declined and we are just in the beginning stages of rebuilding a base. Help us build on this new start. Ask your friends to join you in this effort to turn OSBA into an active organization supporting local clubs, promoting beekeeping education, and giving you something tangible for your membership dues.

My take on all of this is “OSBA still has a long way to go!”

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.

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. Annual 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.
The OSBA Board voted to approve signing a letter of Agreement with the Ohio Expositions Commission providing OSBA the opportunity to organize and manage an eight day beekeeping event at this year’s Ohio State Fair. OSBA is the designated contractor and has agreed to organize and schedule two shows/demonstrations per day totaling 16 shows. These will include bee beard demonstrations, talks about beekeepers, beekeeping, and anything related to beekeeping activity. OSBA will also be able to provide vendor space within the area provided to us in the DiSalle Center Patio which is near the North Main entrance to the fair grounds. The area will be under a 100 x 60 foot tent in a high traffic area. OSBA is responsible for selecting the vendors who will pay OSBA for vendor space with prior approval of the OEC. OSBA will use this money to offset the guarantee for premium money required for the Ohio State Honey Show.

OSBA will not incur expense typically billed as “booth/building/location space”. However OSBA is required to guarantee $1600.00 for premium money to be paid out to exhibitors of the Ohio State Fair Honey Show which will be returning to the Ohio State Fair after a number of years of no honey shows.

So what does this mean for Ohio?:

1. Beekeepers in Ohio will be able to show their outstanding honey products at the Ohio State Fair. Jim Thompson of Smithville, Ohio was selected as the Honey Show Chairman and he is working with the OEC to develop show categories that will be published in the Ohio State Fair booklet. Entry fees will be required for those who show honey, just as in any other category of judging at the Ohio State Fair. Entries will not be handled by OSBA. Rules for the show are determined by the Ohio Expositions Commission. Someone in Ohio will be able to say they have the best honey in the state!

2. We will be able to showcase honey bees to a large general audience. Every beekeeping association in Ohio will have the opportunity to put together materials about their organization. These materials will be made available to visitors at the bee exhibit. Visitors to our demonstrations, who are from the 88 counties in Ohio, will leave the event better educated about beekeeping in their own community, and how to contact local associations should they want to become involved in beekeeping. These organizations can also partner with OSBA and help put this event together.

3. Education is a major focus of this event, and OSBA is including any organization associated with honey bees into our overall plan. This already includes a commitment from Ohio 4-H to showcase youth in beekeeping, OSU Honey Bee Lab and Denise Ellsworth, Ohio Department of Agriculture, and we are working on more.

4. And we will be able to sell vendor space with the approval of OEC. Vendor space is limited and is filling up fast. Contact Dana Stahlman at stahlmanapiaries@aol.com for information.

Our first planning meeting for putting this event together will be held at the home of Dana Stahlman, 3075 Mann Road, Blacklick, Ohio at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 14th. Please contact Dana if you are planning to be involved. At present, Dana Stahlman (General Manager), John George (Assistant Manager), and Nina Bagley (Event Manager) have assigned duties. All OSBA board members will be included in the effort as well as all local bee organizations in Ohio. We need your input, ideas, and involvement.

OEC requires that all volunteers be subject to appropriate background checks, including a national sexual predator search.

When we have more details about the honey show, we will distribute this information through beekeeping organizations and newsletter editors.

Also check our website for updates on what is happening. This is going to be an exciting year!
The last three months have been busy with presentations to several beekeeping clubs in Ohio. The response has been great! I will do the first OQI workshop with the Medina County Beekeepers Club on March 18. The workshop will consist of the following topics:

**Overview of Ohio Queen Initiative**
- Review of the Ohio Queen Initiative
- Protocol of Larvae/48 hour queen cell transfer
- Queen Cell starter creation
- Nuc Creation
- Managing the Nuc to a balanced sustainable colony
- Over wintering Nucs
- Evaluation of the queen and colony

The Workshop’s objective is to familiarize the club beekeepers with the different elements of the Initiative.

Five other Ohio Beekeeping Clubs have expressed an interest in the OQI. Some have received the introduction presentation or will see it at their next meeting in April.

I uncovered some information while researching material for my March 3rd Wooster presentation. Two of the major reasons for the Ohio Queen Initiative are low drone populations and bee diversity (Genetic Bottle Necks).

There are three defined honeybee genetic “Bottle Necks” in the United States according to an article by Dr. Debbie Delany in 2008.

1. Small numbers of queens representing these subspecies were initially brought over and are genetic ancestors of the populations that remain in the US today.
2. *Varroa* caused a second genetic bottleneck of the honeybee in the 1990’s, most feral colonies were killed from 1995 to 1998.
3. A third genetic bottleneck can be attributed to current queen breeding practices, data shows that only 473 breeder queens are used to make replacement queens for 1/3 of all managed colonies in the US, about 1,000,000 queens.

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Ohio Beekeeping

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Honeybee Biology that influences Ohio Beekeeping Genetics

1. The queen’s drones, unfertilized larvae, are an expression of her genetic background only. (the queen’s parents and grandparents)

2. The queen’s fertilized larvae are an expression of the drones with whom that she has mated. (the workers in the existing colony and any queens produced)

3. The colony is a support system to keep the drones healthy and ready to mate with the next generation of queens.

4. The queens that are brought into Ohio plus the queens that are produced in our state have an impact on local Honeybee genetics. Beekeepers should understand what the outcome will be before they buy queens from any queen producer.

Graphic Representation of a Genetic Superfamily

A representation of a colony of bees as a genetic superfamily. The colony in the slide has only four subfamilies, always more. Queen Ann 1’s parents are Italian, therefore the unfertilized drone eggs will be an expression of Ann 1’s parents and grandparents and will be Italian. The drones sperm are all identical. Workers are an expression of both the queen and the drones she mates with.

OSBA SUMMER MEETING

June 8 and 9, 2012  Oxford University, Miami, OH

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City __________________ Zip ______ County _______________

Phone ____________________ Email ______________________________

$15.00 Pre-Registration for OSBA Members

$20.00 Walk-in Registration the day of the program (OSBA Members)

$30.00 Non-OSBA Members

Make Checks Payable to: Ohio State Beekeepers Association

Mail to: John George  8814 Surrey Lane  Plain City, OH  43064
**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!

Ray Alley  
William Allinder  
Douglas Angerman  
Tim Arheit  
Kevin Atkins  
Scott Ball  
David Barrickman  
Mike Bentz  
Samuel Black  
Daniel Bollett  
Michael Bradford  
Gail Brockman  
Frederick Burdell  
Lorenzo Butts  
Alta Casdorph  
David Crawford  
Braxton Cummings  
Sue & Joe Daly  
Lee Darst  
Charles & Bonnie Dennison  
Jeff & Sheila Dicken  
Leonard Dyko  
Jeff Eick  
Sherry Ferrell  
Peter & Nancy Ferron  
Stewart Flaherty  
Kim Flottum  
Chuck & Peggy Garnes  
Steve Geiger  

John Grafton  
Merle Griffith  
Robert Haag  
Susan Hamrick  
Gary Hardwick  
Duane Hathaway  
Sue Heffner  
James Higgins  
Ron Hoopes  
Darrell Hopps  
Jerry Joe Jacobson  
Mike Jessee  
Rick & Becky Johnston  
Bert Kaiser  
Daniel Kaminski  
Scott Keister  
Paul Lane  
Troy Leibengood  
Ken Lightle  
Charles Lindquist  
Chris Lovett  
Zale & Susan Maxwell  
Mark Merrell  
Ray Moeller  
Donald Nash  
Brian Neuman  
Millard Niver  
Robert Opperman  
Dick Osborne  

Deb Owens  
Doug Pfeifer  
Robert Rae  
Don Rahman  
Dora Richardson  
Tony Rimkus  
Lisa Rollens  
Raymond Rudloff  
Gail Russell  
Joe & Julie Saluke  
John Schick  
Michael Shafer  
Carlton Simpson  
Ben Slay  
John Smith  
Dana Stahlman  
Darrell Stoller  
David Strecker  
Dr. Jim Tew  
James Thompson  
Vic Thompson  
Ervin J. Troyer  
Rick Wagner  
Wayne B. Wagner  
Dwight C. Wells  
Ronald Willison  
Dwight Wilson  
Dick Wise  
Karen E. Wood  
Elizabeth Yates
Ohio Beekeeping

What is OSBA

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.

Director Dwight Wilson
Representative Dan Bollett

Director to be elected in the Fall of 2013
Representative Open

Director Alex Zomchek
Representative Open

Director Chris Lovett
Representative Joel G. Boothby

Director to be elected in the Fall of 2013
Representative Open

Director Richard Manley
Representative Tracy Alarcon

Director Joe Kovaleski
Representative Dick Mullet

Director Sam Hammett
Representative Ron Hoopes

Directors Connie Schalinske
Susan Valentine- Cooper
Ron Willison
Representative Kim Flippen
Get to know your OSBA Representatives! Here is an introduction to a few of the beekeepers who have stepped up to volunteer their time as your Regional Representatives. More introductions next quarter!

Representative for Western Reserve

Representative: My name is Tracy Alarcon. My wife Tina and I with our 8 dogs live in Diamond, OH. We became interested in beekeeping in 2009 while Tina was taking the OSU Master Gardener program. I saw an advertisement about the Tri-County meeting in Wooster and attended that year, and so began my obsession with the honey bee. I began reading everything I could get his hands on from the library about the subject, subscribed to both U.S. Journals and in 2010 we attended the Medina County Beekeepers Association short course. We received their first packages on April 30th, 2010 and have not looked back.

I heard Dana speak at a couple of different meetings and when I saw that he was elected President of the OSBA and, read about some of the programs that he wanted to implement, I just knew I wanted to be involved. I'm very excited about the direction that the OSBA is heading.

Representative for Cross Roads

Representative: My name is Dick Mullet. I was raised on a farm in Coshocton County not far from where we now live. I received my BSME from Ohio Northern University then spent three years in the U.S. Army. I spent the next thirty years or so working as a project engineer with various automotive companies. I retired in 2002 and moved back to my roots. I picked up my first Honey Bee hive in 2005, after which I experienced both colony increases and decreases. My worst year was 2010 when I lost 28 of my 30 hives. Keeping an average of thirty hives enables me to provide my Coshocton County customers with the liquid honey and cream honey they desire. I joined OSBA in 2008, attended all the Tri-County workshops since 2006, the Honey Bee Expos since 2010, and many of the OSBA training sessions. Not having a local mentor early in my beekeeping experience prompted me to start the Coshocton County Beekeepers in 2009. I enjoy the challenge, variety of pursuits and people associated with beekeeping.

Representative for Top of Ohio

My name is Jim Kerns. I have been beekeeping for over 42 years, and I was an inspector for 27 years. My main inspection area was Auglaize and Logan Counties. During my tenure as inspector, I visited over 34,000 hives. Springtime always brings lots of enthusiasm to the beekeeper and the apiary. I enjoy working with new bee-
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.

The plan is to have an article in each OSBA Newsletters and also to recognize them by “Telling the Bees” at the annual meetings.

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.

C. Richard "Dick" Osborne

He died Thursday, January 5, 2012, at the age of 80 at home. He was born in Middletown on November 14, 1931 to parents Charles L. and Della (Minnix) Osborne.

Dick worked at Armco Steel for 46 years, retiring in 1994. He was a member of Franklin First United Methodist Church, past chairman of Franklin First United Methodist Church Board of Trustees, played in hand bell choir and sang in chancel choir at church. Was a member of Lincoln Lodge #693 F. & A.M., Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Dayton, former member of Antioch Shrine where he rode with the mounted patrol, a Kentucky Colonel, past President of Warren County Beekeepers Assoc. past president and life member of Ohio State Beekeepers Assoc. member of Southwestern Ohio Beekeepers Assoc. and was very active organizing the Bee School. He was a member of Otterbein Men's Chorus, formerly sang with the men's Quartet at Otterbein, and sang with the Renaissance Chorus, was a member of Friends of Camp Miami Board and Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

Mary Youmans-Stahlman

Wife of OSBA President, Dana Stahlman, passed on Sunday, March 18, 2012 at Mt. Carmel East. Mary was a Retired 6th grade teacher from Gahanna Middle School West. Member of the Martin Janis Lapidary Club. Life member of AOPI Sorority. Graduate of Michigan State University. Survived by husband, Dana Stahlman; daughters, Julie Lennon and Lisa (Richard) Chubb; grandchildren, Carlie and Joshua Chubb and Katelyn and Ian Lennon.

Mary was a strong supporter of beekeeping in Ohio. Mary was always backing any of Dana’s ideas and supported all he did. She attended many local COBA association meetings. She also was a gracious hostess to beekeepers who may have visited their home in Blacklick, OH. Mary will be missed by all who knew her.

Donations in her name can be made to OSBA.
No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

**Honey Jax**—Taste them, you’ll know why the name!

2 Boxes of Chex cereal — your choice of types
1 stick of butter
1/3 c. honey
3/4 c. brown sugar
2 c. nuts (optional)

Melt butter. Add brown sugar and honey. Stir to dissolve. Place cereal and nuts in a large bowl (make sure there’s enough room to mix everything). Pour the butter mix over the cereal blend. Mix well

Place on a foil or parchment lined large baking sheet. Bake at 250 for 1 hour—stirring every 15 minutes. Spread out on parchment or waxed paper to cool and dry.

This is a great recipe that can be adapted for gluten-free diet!

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**OSBA Buzz**

**Master Beekeeper:** Over 60 people attended the Kick-Off presentation on Wednesday, March 21st at the Martin Janis Center. Dewey Caron and Larry Conn nor were guest speakers.

A Knox County beekeeper, with three or so years of experience, sent a letter to County Commissioners advocating the end of County bee inspection programs in Ohio. **OSBA has responded to his letter. It is important for local organizations to raise their voice and let County Commissioners know that you appreciate what they do for you. Now is not the time to remain silent if you appreciate what your county is doing to support beekeepers.** You can visit the OSBA Web site: [www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org) to see the letter sent to commissioners and the response of OSBA.

**OSBA** contacted Diana Roll, with ODA, regarding emergency approval of HopGuard for Varroa mite treatment. Dr. Johnson has prepared the necessary documents to send in order to get approval of this product. OSBA is sending a letter as well, stating that we consider approval of the product as an emergency need.

**OSBA gave a check for $2,477.50 to Dr. Johnson** to help support a honey bee research project. This research will be conducted by his graduate student, Doug Sponsler with colonies started from packages in rural and urban settings. More on this research will be published later this fall in the OSBA Newsletter.
Dear Ohio Beekeeper,

If you were a honey bee, where would you want to live? That may seem like a trivial question, but consider it for a moment. Our State of Ohio consists of various types of landscapes including major cities, suburban neighborhoods, and vast acres of farmland. Honey bees and beekeepers certainly make their homes in all of these environments, but what are the challenges and opportunities associated with each?

A bustling city, full of pavement and traffic, yet provisioned with thousands of gardens and likely free from large-scale chemical spraying...

A rural farm town, quiet and open, but fraught with the hazards of pesticides and the problem of limited floral diversity. A suburban backyard, perhaps offering a mixture of the advantages and disadvantages of both the farm and the city...

I want to start answering this question, but the only way to do that is to study a very large number of hives from all kinds of environments across Ohio. I know that this goal is impossible to achieve on my own, so my request is that you do the studying for me—just by keeping track of one colony that you start from a package of bees this spring. With the information that you gather about your bees through the summer, I will begin constructing the “big picture” of honey bee success in the cities, suburbs, and farmlands of Ohio.

If you are starting a new hive with a package of bees this spring and are interested in partnering with me in this study, please install your package then complete the survey at the web address or QR code below:

http://beelab.osu.edu (click on “Research”)

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I look forward to a productive summer of research with you!

Sincerely,

Doug Sponsler
Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University
614.233.1676 sponsler.18@osu.edu

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In January of this year, I joined the OSU Department of Entomology as director of the honey bee and native pollinator education program. As most Ohio beekeepers know, Dr. Jim Tew and Sherry Ferrell retired from the OSU Bee Lab late last year. My position was created to focus on beekeeping and pollinator outreach across the state. OSU Extension and the Department of Entomology are committed to beekeepers, growers, landowners, gardeners and others interested in health and conservation of honey bees and native pollinators. I will be coordinating workshops, publications, on-line learning modules, webinars and other means of outreach to teach about honey bees and native pollinators. My position involves close collaboration with Dr. Reed Johnson, Dr. Mary Gardiner and other OSU faculty and staff working with honey bee and pollinator research and outreach.

April through October

- The third Wednesday of the month from 9AM to 10AM (login recommended by 8:50)
- Free, no pre-registration required.
- Use your computer or download the iPad or iPhone Adobe Connect app from the iTunes store.
- Log in as a guest.
- To get the log-in URL, join the Bee Lab contact list at least 24 hours before your first session.

All sessions will be recorded and available to view the next day: http://beelab.osu.edu

I have been warmly welcomed to the world of beekeeping at several workshops and bee club/association meetings this winter and spring. To make sure I’m meeting the needs of Ohio beekeepers, I need to hear from you. Feel free to e-mail or contact me about how OSU can best meet the educational needs of both new and experienced beekeepers.

Join the OSU Bee Lab mailing list and stay up-to-date on Bee Lab workshops and news: http://bit.ly/osubeelab

Contact Denise at ellsworth.2@osu.edu, or 330.263.2723
An Interview with…..

How do you reinvigorate and reinvent a bee supply company? That was one of the questions that I could not wait to ask Jane Burgess, the enthusiastic and energetic CEO of the Walter T. Kelley Company. The relatively new owners brought in Jane to help breathe new life into the company. I say relatively new owners, because Kelley’s has been working with beekeepers since 1924, and is one of the longest continuous service bee supply companies in the United States.

A few years ago, many beekeepers worried about Kelley’s future. After Walter T Kelley died, his estate bequeathed the company to a local hospital for a specified number of years. When the hospital divested itself of Kelley’s, the beekeeping community held its breath. What was to become of our supplier? In the past few years since Kelley’s is on its own, the once-sleepy company has become dynamic in its drive to assist the beekeeping community. They have transformed from a laggard, back into one of the leaders in the industry.

I was fortunate to be able to carve out a bit of time from Jane Burgess’ busy schedule. She had just returned from a field visit to the beekeeping community. Although there are many other bee supply companies in the United States, Jane believes that what sets Kelley apart from the rest are three factors:

- Education,
- Partnering with the beekeeping community, and
- Customer service

The staff’s passion is to help beekeepers. The company’s staff fluctuates seasonally between 60 to 98 people, whose ages range from afterschool high school students to those celebrating birthdays in their 70s.

Many of Kelley’s newer customers have entered beekeeping due to the media coverage of CCD. Also, many people who are environmentally conscious, and living in the urban and suburban areas, are drawn to beekeeping. The Kelley’s is a supporter of the Garfield Conservatory in Chicago. The company also supports small beekeeping clubs, businesses, and the mid-hobbyist(50-300 hives).

The company, based in Clarkson, Kentucky, has a retail network of 15 large dealers, and 56 smaller sellers (which includes clubs). One main criterion in order to become a Kelley retailer is that the person selling the equipment must be beekeeper. Also, they limit the number of retailers so that territories do not overlap.

Jane and I discussed the incredible transformation of the Kelley catalog in the past few years. When I first started beekeeping, their catalog was more like a small, static pamphlet that basically listed item number, part name, and price. For the novice beekeeper, this catalog was challenging to understand, to say the least. The current catalog, with which we are all familiar, has an alphabetical index at the beginning, color photos, excellent descriptions, and a constant array of new products. Other company upgrades include a new phone system, a computerized catalog, and a state-of-the-art website. These changes also require constant education of the Kelley team. An interesting anecdotal story that Jane shared with me: While the new catalog was a boon for the newer beekeeper, the seasoned beekeepers balked at the transformation. For years they were accustomed to placing the same order year after year, and now suddenly page numbers and item numbers were different!

Jane informed me that they try to test all the new items that appear in their catalog. The Clarkson facility consists of 20 acres that house 14 buildings which are involved in warehousing or shipping. Jane is involved in all phases of the business. You may actually talk to her when you call Kelly to place an order. She is constantly listening to customer suggestions and employee feedback regarding improvements to the company.

Another exciting new phase in the company is their increased dedication to breeding a superior queen. They purchased 750 hives that are located in Mississippi. These hives will also be used to test out new ideas and equipment. They learned is that managing hives from a distance is not an easy task.

Due to the Mississippi apiary, they also learned quite a bit about small hive beetle issues. Their current deep hive body with the lip on the metal frame rest was a boon to the small hive beetle—the area under the frame rest was a great hiding place for the small hive beetle. In order to resolve this issue, Kelley’s had to

(Continued on page 24)
Managing Honey Supers—When, Where, How, How Many?

Bill Starrett

Many times honey supers are put on hives without any thoughts about the procedure, only that it is the thing to do to get a honey crop. What follows are suggestions to maximize the harvest, improve the timing, and reduce swarming.

The bees instinctively store the honey they collect immediately above the brood nest, so it stands to reason that that is the best place to put honey supers. It is also a known fact that bees need plenty of comb space to put “green” nectar during the curing process until they can consolidate and cap the “ripe” honey. Without sufficient comb space the nectar accumulates in the brood nest causing congestion which eventually triggers swarming. It necessarily follows that during a heavy or sustained nectar flow it takes lots of empty comb space to adequately provide for the bee’s needs. One can hardly provide too much space in the spring which is characterized by the saying, “Over super in the spring and under super in the fall.”

Proper timing ensures a maximum harvest and less chance of swarming, while being late reduces the amount of honey stored because congestion negatively affects the collection instinct. So when is the proper time to put honey supers on the hive? The bees tell us when it is time when they enter what is called the “white wax” stage, which is when the bees begin to add new wax to the edges of the top bars of the frames in the brood nest. As soon as the first flakes of wax appear there should be no delay in putting honey supers on the hive.

How many honey supers are initially needed depends on the nectar flow, and having enough supers is determined by the harvest patterns of the area. In most cases a minimum of two honey supers is needed, shallows or mediums for shorter flows or the convenience of lifting less weight, or deeps for the less physically challenged beekeeper. The super immediately above the brood area will be the first place the bees will store and cap honey. When about 70-75% of the comb contains honey and 30-35% is capped another empty super should be put immediately above the brood nest and the partially filled super put above it where the bees will finish filling and capping it. Bottom supering as it is called should continue until the nectar flow ends, and strong hives may benefit from improved ventilation and easier access provided by an upper entrance created by slightly staggering a honey super. Once nectar flows end such an entrance should be closed to reduce the chances of robbing.

The main disadvantage of bottom supering is that full and partially filled honey supers must be lifted off the hive to put empty ones immediately above the brood nest, and then all that weight must be lifted back on top of the stack. For most people it is much easier to just add empty supers on top and avoid all the heavy lifting and that is typically what beekeepers do. An alternative to lifting full supers back to the top is to extract it when it is removed, then return the empty super to the hive. That also reduces the number of honey supers that are needed as well as storage space needed in the winter. But that also requires extracting several times during the season.

Regardless of HOW hives are supered, the WHEN is a non-negotiable.
By the year 2008, I had been studying holistic nutrition for quite some time. I had reached the point to where I needed to write a lengthy research paper. About this same time, my husband, Sam, and I were also deep into creating Anam-Cara Apiary on our little farm just outside Barlow, Ohio. As I pondered research topics, a question came to mind: Could the words nutritional and apitherapy be combined to specifically mean eating raw honey for health and wellness purposes? A thorough search of the Internet produced nothing. Apparently, the words had never been paired before. I wrote Andrew Kochan, M.D., past president of the American Apitherapy Society, and was assured that the two words were, indeed, very compatible. From that moment on, I was off and “virtually” traveling the world to discover scholarly literature substantiating the practice of nutritional apitherapy.

I wanted my paper to document the discovery of the hard science behind the anecdotal evidence of eating honey for its health benefits. I also wanted it to serve as the foundation for educational programs that may increase the demand for raw honey. Ideally, that demand may provide opportunities for the expansion of existing beekeepers, and might also entice brand new people to take up the art and science of raw honey production. I kept my nose to the grindstone and, by early 2010, the technical paper titled, “Nutritional Apitherapy – The Health Benefits of Ingesting Organic Raw Honey,” was finished.

The literature search revealed a number of health indications tied to eating raw honey. Some of the indications were more strongly supported by research studies and clinical trials than others. I chose to include fifteen of the indications in my paper. Additionally, one of the most interesting discoveries was a 200-page document titled, “1699 References Apimedical Science.” It is a compendium of worldwide research studies and clinical trials. Everything listed in the document is based upon honeybee hive products, whether it is honey, royal jelly, propolis, or pollen. Anyone searching for evidence of using honeybee hive products for wellness purposes should view this document. I included a complete copy of it as an Addendum to my own work.

My paper also required that a study be done. One hundred seventy-five people living within a 50-mile radius of Barlow, Ohio were surveyed about their subjective opinions on eating raw honey for nutritional apitherapy purposes. The results of this first study of its kind clearly indicated that the participants were very interested and willing to consider eating honey for its health benefits. Also, they wanted to learn more about raw honey and the practice of nutritional apitherapy. Various figures and tables of the study results are included in the completed paper. To aid the participants and other consumers in their search for the highest quality raw honey, I also prepared a consumer’s guide. Basically, consumers are pointed toward local beekeepers, farmers markets, and other local sources. The guide is also included in the completed paper.

These days, I am happy to speak with any captive audience about nutritional apitherapy. I always find them eager to learn more about the topic. Many times, their first questions will include, “So, where can I get some of that honey?” I answer that the quality of honey is influenced by many factors. But, for nutritional apitherapy purposes, raw honey needs to be as close to straight out-of-the-hive and into their mouths as possible. I answer that a supply just may be as close as the nearest beekeeper.
Experiences of a First Year Top Bar Hive Beekeeper

As a child I remember visiting the Dayton Museum of Natural History with my Grandmother. We would spend a lot of time looking at the observation hive. She would ask me if I could find the queen bee. I was not able to find the queen and not really any better now. Back then I am not sure that I knew what the queen actually looked like, but it was good to spend time with my Grandmother. A few years back a tree came down at our house and there was a bee hive in it. We had a local beekeeper come out and relocate the hive. A few months later I saw an article on the CNN web site about Top Bar Hives (TBH), and thought it would be a neat idea to try. My understanding from reading the article was that I could build a TBH, set it out, and the bees would come, the eternal optimist I guess. When talking to a friend, it was suggested that I take the Green County Beekeeper’s Introductory Class at the Narrows in Beavercreek, Ohio to find out more. I learned a lot about bees and that setting a hive out did not guarantee bees would come. In fact it was not likely that would happen. The instructors were very knowledgeable about bees and the use of Langstroth hives, but did not have much experience with TBH. I was still interested in TBH and decided I would try it anyway. So I put out 1 TBH and 2 Langstroth Hives as I did want success and also wanted to see the difference between TBH and Langstroth Hives.

I am sure many of you are current beekeepers so I will not bore you with a complete history of beekeeping as I am not an expert. But I want to give a brief history of the evolution of the bee hive and how the TBH came into the picture. Initially, bees were kept in hives made from logs, baskets and pots. In Europe, Straw Skep’s were used for many years to keep hives and some beekeepers still use them today. This method of beekeeping typically required the destruction of the hive to harvest the honey and wax.

Around 1850 Rev. L. L. Langstroth came up with a hive that used self-spacing, movable frames. The frames would be made with a wax foundation and placed inside of a rectangular box. This would allow the beekeeper to remove the comb and manage the hive without destroying the hive.

The 2 hives described above are extensively used in Europe and America. In the forrested parts of Africa, it is common to see the use of logs with vertical bars as hives. In the early 1900s, a French Abbey Emile Warre’ developed the “People’s Hive.” This was a square box with bars attached across the top of the box. These bars had grooves with a starter strip attached for guides where the bees would start to draw their comb. These boxes were then stacked on top of each other to form a tower. This is a fixed comb hive and did not lend itself well to hive inspection or partial honey extraction. The vertical Top Bar Hive is similar to the Warre’ hive where the comb is suspended from a top bar. The difference is that the Vertical Top Bar is a long horizontal box with bars across the top where the bees build their comb suspended from the top bars. These bars are removable to allow for easy inspection and partial removal of honey and wax.

A few of the advantages that I have read about top bar hives is that the amount of equipment required for a top bar hive is significantly less than a Lang-
stroth hive. I have found this to be true as you do not need many supers and frames with foundation. You will still need the protection such as a veil, smoker and hive tool. Top bar hives are lower and easy to manage as the bars are across the hive and not stacked on top of each other like supers are on Langstroth hives. They require no heavy lifting. I have found that to be true -- once the hive is in place, you do not need to move it. The hive body is a bit heavier than a Langstroth hive, but once in place this is not an issue. Also, once full of honey, the hive is much heavier as you need to lift the entire hive instead of one super at a time as with a Langstroth hive. When you are harvesting honey with top bar hives you remove one comb at a time and do not need to lift a heavy super full of honey. If your goal is to harvest a large amount of honey, this is a disadvantage. In a TBH you harvest smaller amounts of honey at more frequent intervals. In addition, you need to remove the entire comb and crush it to harvest the honey. This will require the bees to rebuild the comb thus reducing your honey harvest. On the other hand, if your goal is to harvest smaller amounts of honey, wax, and use the bees more for pollination, then top bar hives might be a good option for you.

Next issue: Designing and Building the Top Bar Hive

Jim Kerns (Continued from page 9)

keepers who are just discovering the world of beekeeping. I look forward to sharing my beekeeping experience with the beekeepers in the Top of Ohio Region. Sharing ideas helps us become better and more knowledgeable beekeepers. One of the techniques that I use, that I would like to see more beekeepers implement is the 2 queen system. I have used this system for years and it helps my apiary remain strong and produce honey.
Opinions from the Apiary:

A Honey Standard?? A Honey Standard!!

Sue Daly, Central Ohio Beekeepers Association, Legislative Committee

What in the world are we talking about? What is a honey standard? Honey is honey, correct? Well, I'm glad you asked!!

When there is a honey shortage honey prices rise. Good thing, bad thing. Over the past decade a honey supply shortage has caused adulterated honey to appear on the U.S. market, including Ohio. In March, 2006 five major honey groups (Sioux Honey, American Honey Producers Association, American Beekeeping Federation, National Honey Packers and Dealers Association, and the Western Dealers and Packers Association) petitioned the FDA to adopt the 2001 Revised Codex Standard of Identification of Honey (with certain deviations). In August 2006 and again in October 2011 the FDA denied the petition. Thus a state by state effort was initiated to develop a honey standard.

What is the Codex Standard of Identification of Honey? The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international commission within the World Trade Association. Its function is to facilitate ease in international trade. In 2000 the Commission addressed the need for an international standard of identity for honey.

What is honey? What is butter? Dairy farmers lost the word “butter” to the public domain when they kept letting margarine substitute for true butter. Because the dairy people did not define “What is butter,” the general public very seldom knows the difference between spread with “buttery taste” and butter. Therefore a “buttery taste spread” might also contain cream, canola oil, salt and Vitamin A Palmitate. This is NOT a labeling issue but rather a “What is butter” issue. Honey is having the same problem. Honey is a commodity and needs to be scientifically defined to protect honey producers and the public. A honey standard defines precisely “What is honey”.

A standard defines honey by means of scientific analysis to establish moisture content, and sugar content thus ensuring the contents of a honey bottle. A honey standard should not be confused with a statement of identity on a label. Honey labeling laws already exist to stop deceptive wording on a label, such as “imitation honey”. They also require that if the word “honey” appears on the “label” then it must be “pure honey manufactured by honey bees.” However, the honey in the bottle can be PURE honey, but once in the bottle it could be just another ingredient of a “honey blend”. A honey standard specifically defines the product “honey”, thus increasing the strength of the labeling law.

In Ohio honey is defined in the Revised Code as 1) a food – article used for food or drink for humans or animals and 2) as the nectar and saccharine exudation of plants that has been gathered, modified, and stored in honeycomb by honeybees. Sounds good you say? How can you prove it is honey? No one can define honey by merely saying that it comes from bees. A scientific standard would specifically state what that substance is.

Ohio’s definition could be improved as it is inadequate for the 21st century. The definition needs to be more specific, in that it needs a method for determining honey from adulterated honey. We have gotten ourselves in the position of having to tell the consumer that our honey is “pure” or “raw” because there is no scientific definition of honey. The definition needs to include a scientific analysis standard.

The National Honey Board (NHB) performed a survey with this conclusion: “With a variety of blended sweeteners and “honey pretenders” being introduced into the market, consumer understanding of the meaning of the term “honey” is likely to erode. THUS, the codification of the food name “honey” is timely and sorely needed.” The NHB consumer survey in 2005 found consumers are “very confused” about what “honey” means in terms of the “food’s composition.” 42% believed that PURE honey contains additives and 17% believed honey contains added syrup. Even among the most frequent and dedicated honey users there is widespread confusion as to what ingredients might be found in a bottle of pure honey. Anywhere from 30-40% of frequent honey users believe that other sweeteners, water, or even oils are added to pure honey once it is extracted from the comb.

Some of the beneficial consequences of a state honey standard are 1) increase the perception that honey is healthy and wholesome, 2) stop manufacturers from calling their product “honey something,” and 3) allow enforcement through the state.

Go to bee-source.com and click on the “Wall of Shame.” We have allowed the word “honey” to go into the public domain where it is commonly used, yet many times contains little or no honey. The word is (Continued on page 24)
Organizing a Club Bee Yard

Our bee yard started with a discussion during a regular meeting. It was decided that this would be a teaching bee yard and would be geared toward new beekeepers. More skilled beekeepers were welcome to help teach the newbees. I can now tell you that after several years of operation, it has become much more than this. It has provided many benefits for our club and it’s a great learning tool. We use ours as an extension of our bee school and ongoing training for more advanced members. It also helps with member retention and is part of our club’s socialization, as well as helping promote beekeeping to the general public.

Before your club thinks about starting a bee yard, there are several questions that need to be answered. What is your bee yard going to be used for? Do you want a teaching yard? A yard used for production and income for your club? A demonstration area for the general public? Or, maybe all of the above.

Location: After these questions are settled, your next objective will be to find a location for your yard. First, find a site central and accessible for your club. Look for a site at a metro-park or school or college campus, a plant nursery, a community garden or even an unused part of a cemetery. You can check with someone who has private land, or a farm or an orchard. Once a site is found, you must determine if the zoning is OK for a bee yard and the site is not prone to flooding but has access to water. Make sure there is adequate parking and you can have access to the yard when needed.

We found a central location at Ohio State University Waterman Farm campus in Columbus. It’s a win-win situation as they want our bees for pollination and we use the site in the evenings or weekends when classes and employees are gone.

Cost and budgeting: You’ll need a budget that will cover costs and operation. Again, there will be a number of questions that need answers. Determining the size of the yard will be the first. You can always start off small and expand as needed. How much equipment will be needed to start? Will your club be buying and/or building equipment? Will someone be donating equipment? Be careful of donated used equipment. It may not be serviceable enough or may be diseased. If something is donated, make sure it becomes part of the bee club and cannot be taken back. How about the cost of bees, food and other ongoing supplies? How about hive tools and smokers? These tools should be used only at your club’s bee yard to avoid bringing in diseases or contamination from other yards. Consider adding picnic tables that can be used for training and socializing. Will you have to install a fence or secure the area in some way?

Our startup cost was about $1,500. This purchased all new equipment and bees and such incidentals as feeders and syrup. This was for six hives. Your club could get along on much less if you started with fewer hives or more donations of equipment. Our hives were painted by one of our member’s daughter who did this as a Girl Scout project.

During our 2nd year we added more hives and equipment, a top bar hive and some picnic tables. To offset our costs, we sold the first year’s hives to club members. We also raised and sold queens and a bit of honey so by the end of the second year our yard was self-sustaining. Although the club sets up and funds our bee yard at the beginning of the year, the bee yard pays everything back by the end of the season. So in effect, it doesn’t cost our club to have a bee yard. As a matter of fact, we usually make money for the club.

Staffing: Staffing your bee yard requires a commitment from several members. You will need at least one person to be in charge and others as instructors and mentors. You can get the new beekeepers committed to the program by having the bee yard students be part of the upkeep and maintenance such as mowing and painting. If you’re going to have a pot luck meal at each meeting, have the bee yard members be responsible. Your rewards by having the new beekeepers involved will be member retention, new club leaders emerging and a stronger club.

Operation: We usually begin the season by building hive boxes, frames and foundation. This is where the new beekeepers learn with hands on training. We then set up the new hives and install packages or nucs. Later on we may install a swarm for demonstration. Keeping records is an important part of beekeeping, especially for new beekeepers, so have the new beekeepers bring their own note book. Safety is also a concern and we require the new beekeepers to

(Continued on page 23)
How to Obtain Top Quality Brood and Super Combs

Next to the bees, top quality brood combs are probably the most valuable asset in any beekeeping inventory. With everything else being equal, colony strength and productivity are directly proportional to the quality of the worker comb located in the heart of the active broodnest. The main problem lies in trying to induce colonies to initiate comb construction under erratic early season weather conditions. To complicate matters even more, management strategies or techniques that work well one year may fail miserably the next. Everything is dependant on a combination of decent weather, adequate buildup flows, and the condition of the colonies in early spring!

Irregardless of the external conditions, comb production success dictates that a couple of basic and a number of secondary management issues be considered. For starters, young adults twelve to eighteen days of age are the primary wax producers and comb builders, hence the first requirement is a colony with an expanding population of young bees. The second essential is a stable source of incoming carbohydrates, preferably from a naturally occurring honey flow. The only alternative is to feed thin sugar syrup. This is particularly true in the case of newly established packages or splits where food reserves may already be in short supply.

The secondary issues involve adequate heat in the comb production area, proper timing, control over the availability of open comb, and baiting. I’ll start with the issue of heat. Simply put, a large portion of the comb production work occurs at night and is integral to the processing of recently collected nectar. Any colony regardless of its overall strength will draw out new comb at a much faster rate if it’s able to keep the comb production area warm. For this reason always try to place foundation directly above the active broodnest.

And unless daytime temperatures are extremely high, keep the screened bottom closed and the entrance reduced to an appropriate size. The overall quality of brood comb produced in this manner will be vastly superior to that produced in the actual broodnest.

The issue of proper timing speaks for itself. It’s senseless to supply foundation unnecessarily. Instead, factor in colony strength, the current and predicted weather patterns, the potential honey flow prospects, and then add foundation accordingly. In extreme circumstances, be prepared to feed thin sugar syrup to jump-start or maintain comb production.

Crowding is another issue of critical importance. Honeybees do not voluntarily initiate new comb construction. There has to be a need for more brood rearing or honey storage space. Colonies that contain an excess of open comb aren’t going to be in any hurry to work foundation. Therefore it may become necessary to remove excess open comb in order to force the production of new comb.

Baiting is the practice of using drawn comb(s) to entice the bees to start working new foundation. For example, you’ve just added a second hive body containing ten frames of foundation. Absent a major honey flow, there is a natural reluctance on the part of the comb builders to move up and work the foundation. You can overcome this reluctance by moving a couple frames of open brood up into the center of the new box. This will immediately draw the nurse bees up to tend the young brood, and as a result comb construction will usually commence in relatively short order. Transfer the displaced foundation to the outside walls of the donor brood box. Once comb production is well underway, replace the previously displaced foundation with newly drawn comb. The same basic management principles hold true for honey supers. Place two or three empty drawn combs into the center of the foundation super, and rotate the three displaced frames of foundation to the outside walls of the donor or lower super. If you’re starting from scratch, don’t expect to get super foundation drawn out above a queen excluder. Temporarily ditch the excluder until you have at least two full supers of drawn comb, then use the baiting technique described above.

Wax or plastic, which works best, and why? For brevity, I will explain the pros and cons of plastic foundation. Starting with frames, I much prefer and routinely recommend wood frames over their plastic counterparts, primarily due to their greater rigidity and superior spacing advantage. I also prefer and recommend the use of plastic snap-in foundation. From a handling perspective, plastic is far more durable and much easier to install than the wax alternative. In addition, plastic foundation is impervious to being “chewed up” during a nectar dearth, or prolonged periods of inclement weather! (Continued on page 22)
Early in the season the necessity to induce or force strong colonies to produce comb generally carries with it a well defined swarming threat. To be safe, check the broodnest for swarm cells on a weekly basis. Once comb construction is well underway, the swarming threat should abate accordingly.

Boomers, my term for super strength overwintered colonies are generally not good comb producing candidates. Their main goal in life is to swarm at the first opportunity. If you plan to produce new comb with this type of colony, you will first have to remove the majority of the older field bees. That accomplished, manage the colony similar to the medium strength example described above.

One final consideration, not all colonies will draw foundation equally, irrespective of the external conditions. Once you’re able to identify the superior comb builders, transfer the comb building work to those colonies and use the slackers for some other purpose.

The only real disadvantage of plastic foundation is the increased weight. Ten sheets of deep, crimp wired foundation weigh a tad less than 1½ lbs. Ten sheets of deep, plastic foundation weigh slightly over 4 lbs, or roughly triple the weight of wax. While the weight difference is significant, it’s a relatively minor issue when compared to all the other advantages that plastic has to offer.

The following examples should help illustrate some of the management strategies that support successful comb production. Start packages or early season splits in a five frame nuc box instead of standard ten frame equipment. The limited broodnest area has two beneficial effects. First, a good portion of the cluster heat is retained, thereby allowing the small colony to immediately increase its brood rearing capacity. Secondly, once new brood starts to emerge the colony will immediately require additional comb space. This is a prime example of a relatively weak colony that will readily draw out foundation. Simply add a second five frame box of foundation directly above the established broodnest. By the time the second box has been drawn out the season will have progressed to the point where you can safely transfer the colony into standard equipment. Once transferred you can continue to add foundation, or install an excluder and add supers preparatory to the flow.

Medium strength overwintered colonies are also prime comb production candidates. Once broodnest expansion and incoming resources necessitate additional comb space, simply add the desired amount of foundation directly above the active broodnest. In those instances where whole boxes of foundation are added, don’t hesitate to bait the foundation with a couple frames of open brood or empty drawn comb.

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

Speedy Bee Troy Fore, Publisher Reg: $17.25
OSBA DISCOUNT: $13.25
Honeybee EXP and Beekeeping School

On January 28, the Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeeper’s Association (MOVBA) held its most successful EXPO and Beekeeping School ever! In past years, the attendance had steadily grown. But, this year, all records were broken! The day-long event was held at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, WV (WVU-P). From the keynote address by Craig A. Cella, Beekeeping Entrepreneur, to the closing remarks by Sam Hammett, MOVBA President, the WVU-P classrooms were packed with people seeking knowledge about all things honeybees.

Workshop sessions were geared toward the beginner and the advanced beekeeper. A special thanks goes out to the following presenters: Joe Kovaleski, Dana Stahlman, Wade Stiltner, Joe Latshaw, Ph.D., Connie Wilkinson, David Rectenwald, Paul Poling, L. Joyce Hammett, Ph.D., and the MOVBA Women and Friends. In addition to the classroom presentations, large assortments of vendors displayed their wares. Everything from lip balm to stainless steel extractors was available. There truly was something for everyone.

A big thanks also goes to Teresa Wagoner, MOVBA Treasurer and EXPO Coordinator, for her many months of spearheading the planning and preparations. Mark your calendars now for the next MOVBA Honeybee EXPO to be held in January, 2013.

Details to be announced

Contact Information Needed

Below is a list of club members for whom we do not have current contact information. If you know any of these beekeepers, please have them send us updated information!

Roger Miller  Robert Kress  Gail & Richard Shoots
Dawn Feagan  Dwight Grimm  Ken Lightle
Cindy Carsman  Gene Jr. McCane  Jeffrey W. Crecelius & Marishka
Dennis & Andrea Anderson  Luker, Randy & Petrila  R. Wile
Heather Laurer  Cory Williams  Eric Helt
Janis James  Mike Swintosky  Alta Casdorph
Jessie McClain  Carol & Roger Barton
Rickard Bolomer  Frankie Spradlin

Club Beeyard

(Continued from page 20)

at least wear a veil. We keep an Epi-pen and a first aid kit handy. You may want to get some outside advice on this subject.

Our typical meeting is held on the same evening every week. The meetings start at 6:00 and some people come directly from work, so we start with a pot luck meal and then get into discussions about bees and actually inspect some of the hives. Make sure the new members are the ones opening the hives and doing the actual inspection with a mentor on hand to answer questions. From time to time we may have a speaker or a special demonstration such as a county bee inspector who explains how he or she inspects hives. Our meetings are scheduled to end at 7:30 but many times we continue on to socialize.

I hope these suggestions are helpful in starting your bee yard. Above all, make it a fun time to be with fellow bee keepers, I’m sure you’ll find it rewarding as well.
Ohio Beekeeping

Honey Standard
(Continued from page 19)

used to lure customers into believing that the product is nutritious and wholesome because when customers see “honey,” they automatically assume it is good for you and “natural.”

Malcolm Sanford presented at the Ohio State Beekeeper 2008 annual meeting on actions in Florida to change their state’s honey standards and the movement to adopt standards on a state-by-state basis. In 2010 the Ohio State Beekeepers Association and the Central Ohio Beekeepers Association created a committee to draft a state honey standard for Ohio. In a Letter to the Editor in the January 2012 American Bee Journal, Nancy Gentry states that Florida, California, Wisconsin, Utah, and Nebraska now have standards of identity for honey with North Carolina recently adopting a state association standard. She continued to say that Texas, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Missouri, New York, Montana, Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Tennessee has the issue before their legislature or departments of agriculture while beekeepers in Georgia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts are working on the issue. Her statement about Ohio was a little premature. Since that article Ms. Gentry has stated that Minnesota, Nevada, Connecticut, Kansas, New Jersey and Arkansas are pursuing a standard also.

Next Quarter: The proposed Honey Standard

An Interview with Jane Burgess (Continued from page 14)

retool their whole manufacturing plant to redesign the hive body so that it no longer will need the metal frame rest. For all those beekeepers who have Kelly boxes with the metal frame rests, do not fear, those frame rest will be available for many years to come.

The company’s dedication to customer service shows up throughout the business. They have negotiated with UPS to help lower shipping costs, and they are passing that savings along to the customers. The company is also reducing costs to the customer by reviewing production flow in the workshops, and passing the resulting savings to the customers.

Kelley’s is dedicated to educating their customers with their monthly electronic newsletter. It is filled with great information, photos, and many guest authors. Jane is working with one of their web developers to create a blog so that beekeepers can discuss articles in the newsletter.

During the season Kelley’s offers open houses on the weekends with educational classes on topics such as how to install bees, how to inspect bees, bee equipment, etc. I asked Jane if they had any thoughts about taking it on the road and helping spread beekeeping education through other clubs or at conferences. While that may be the future option said Jane, they want to fine tune their classes, and be able to offer advanced classes in splitting, queen rearing, diagnosis, etc. before developing a mobile education unit.

We talked a bit about the future of Kelley’s two years down the road. Jane sees Kelly offering more educational programs, innovative products, improved customer service, improved production, and to continuing passion for customer service.

Next time you’re down in Clarkson Kentucky feel free to give Walter T Kelley Company a visit.
For those of you who remember the advertisement that went “if it says Libby’s Libby’s Libby’s on the label on the label on the label you will like it like it like it on your table on your table...that can also be said for your label.

Just a few years ago the basic options the beekeepers had regarding labels were the following: a roll of standardized pre-printed labels that came in a quantity of 200 labels per roll. The beekeeper had to stamp their name and the weight of the contents on the label, or hand write that information. Either way, the label usually looked like a home-ec project. The other choice was to find a custom printer for your labels. After a while, the roll of labels started to look a little shabby, and many times beekeepers needed to buy new labels because the labels on the roll got crushed or stained over time.

Most local honey labels looked handmade. The background was professionally done but usually the beekeepers stamp wasn’t quite squared on the label or the handwriting looked unprofessional.

Today the options are almost limitless. You can purchase a sheet of professionally made labels that you can customize by running through your printer with software available through word or other desktop programs.

I don’t like cookie-cutter labels, nor do I need two hundred of one type of product. So, I created my labels using Word, PowerPoint, or CorelDRAW, printed them out using my color printer, and cut them out using a scrapbook template. Easy, customizable, and very little cost involved.

I also like the option of changing my label slightly each year. If I have an early extraction, I can put on the label “Spring Honey”. If I’m paying close attention during extraction, I can mark which honey is from what hive. My label could say “From the Girls in Hive 2”. Customers like that personal touch.

If you’re not that creative on your own, there are many free or inexpensive ways to design your own labels. Avery (www.avery.com) is now offering a wide variety of printable labels in different shapes, sizes and colors that can help make your jars stand out from the pack. Free software is available on their websites along with templates, so that your labels can reflect your own personality.

There are also many templates available out on the Internet that are available on websites and blogs. All you need to do is Google in order to be overwhelmed by the choices.

Start now to create your business card. People will only know you have honey to sell it you spread the word. A fast and relatively inexpensive way to create a business card is to use free software. Avery has free software that you can either download or use directly on their website (cloud computing). They have customizable templates and you can print at home. At another nifty website, Vistaprint (www.vistaprint.com) you can use one of their templates and customize it for your business. However, you do not have the option of printing at home...they do the printing and then mail it to you. Their prices are reasonable, they constantly have specials, and a they have a wide variety of products to help promote your business. It is a one-stop shop to make your business look big — postcards, business cards, banners, T-shirts — they have it all. A similar company, www.gotprint.com, also offers a wide variety of advertising products.

So take the time now to be prepared for a bumper honey crop and great sales.

Here are some quick tips to keep your personal protective gear in top-notch shape:

**Veil**: Its easy to replace worn out elastic! Any fabric store or big-box general merchandise store carries elastic. Just snip the old elastic and pull it out. Attach a small safety pin to the end of the new elastic and rethread it through the casing. You can either handstitch the ends together, or use the safety pin. You can also clean the nylon netting. Unscented soap and a nailbrush make quick work of the grime. Let it hang on a clothesline to dry thoroughly. If the metal mesh starts to rip, use a bit of duct tape and re-seal the torn piece.

**Hive Tool**: Keep it clean! Don’t bother with those green scrubbies that quickly shred when faced with propolis. Purchase a metal scrubby (coiled metal, not a Brillo pad). The metal scrubby makes short work of propolis, wax and honey (hot water helps too).

See you in the beeyard~~
Club Corner — Great Ideas You Can Use!

The Medina County Beekeepers Association hold a "Pre-Meeting" each month before the "Regular Meeting". This meeting is designed to help new(er) beekeepers with questions and answers as the season progresses. Below is a comment from Dr. Dewey Caron in regards to the Pre-Meeting idea.

"By the way the Pre-Meeting is in my opinion a great learning opportunity for the newbees. I wish other groups would adopt it. The Western Connecticut (Backyard Beekeepers) do this type of Pre-Meeting very well ... in fact they have 2 pre-meetings - one for youngsters and one for newbees - In some cases the newbees attend ONLY the Pre-Meeting and duck out before the meeting itself (depending upon the topic of course and speaker). It is important I think that other local experts rotate in and out of the Pre-Meeting and that someone be "in charge" for the continuity. I ap-

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

I don’t know about your life, but in my little corner of the world, things are already starting to get crazy busy with the demands on my time — both in the beekeeping world and in real-life.

When students want to either visit my beeyard, or have me visit theirs….its hard to say "no". When local (and not so local) groups want a speaker, or when swarm calls come in and no one else is available…I find it hard to turn them down.

In both local clubs to which I belong we have some experienced beekeepers who are always willing to help out the more novice beekeeper. I try to pay-forward all the help that I received during my formative beekeeping years.

My husband, puppy, garden, yard, house, and friends can easily be overlooked in the tornado of spring activities. Sometimes the whirlwind can really test the limits of creativity. Many times the monthly club newsletter deadlines creep up upon us editors, and we don’t have tons of time to spend putting together the perfect creation for all of our readers. The blank computer screen mimics our brains.

I am lucky. I have a few regular columnists for the two local newsletters that I compile. I also am not shy about asking club members to contribute to the newsletters. Not all editors are so fortunate.

So, we editors are working together to develop a library of articles that we can use in our local editions to help educate, entertain, and expand our publications.

When this idea was first broached to other editors, I was worried that they might think “who is this person, and why should I help?”. However, the response was warmly received and everyone was willing to pitch ways to make this happen, and contribute articles.

Beekeepers are generous folks. Their willingness to help out fellow beekeepers, without hesitation, always makes me realize how fortunate I am to be part of a great group.

If you are a newsletter editor for a local club, and you would like to be part of this Beekeeper Editor Exchange, please contact me at:

osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com
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### 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
  - Ohio Queen Initiative
  - Regional Round-up—
    - Meet your OSBA Director and Representative
    - Snip & Save Beekeeping Techniques
    - Ohio State Fair Honey Show
    - And much more!

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