OSBA Summer Conference 2013  
Saturday, June 1  
8 a.m.—4 p.m.  
Hosted by the Guernsey Nobel Beekeepers Association at  
Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center in Cambridge Ohio  
www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org/sc

REGISTRATION FEES

- $20 - OSBA Member Pre-Registered
- $25 - OSBA Member at the door
- $30 - Non Member
- $5 - OSBA Guest (Spouse or children under 18 with paid OSBA Member)

Boxed Lunch: $9.50 will be available by pre-purchase only

Registration - Hot beverages and donuts, Visit the Vendors  
Presidents' Welcome and Keynote Speaker
Dr. Greg Hunt, Purdue University - Indiana Queen Project/Breeding for Mite-Biting Bees.

Break

Session 1  
Auditorium: On The Radar - What's New: Kim Flottum  
Room 1: Preparing wax (Going to the Fair) - Joe Kovaleski  
Room 2: Queen Management - Nina Bagley  
Beeyard: Basic Hive Inspection (Preparing for the Apprentice Test): Kimberly Flippen

Break

Session 2  
Auditorium: Dealing with Bee Kills Associated with Planting Corn - Greg Hunt  
Room 1: Cooking with Honey (Going to the Fair) - Dawn Arheit  
Room 2: What a Bee Wants: Denise Ellsworth  
Beeyard: Splitting for Increase and Nucs for Sale or Overwintering: Dwight Wilson

Break

Lunch

Session 3  
Auditorium: Winter Starts Now - Kim Flottum  
Room 1: Harvesting Honey (Entering the Fair)  
Room 2: Ohio Bee Research Update - Doug Sponsler  
Beeyard: Advanced hive inspection: John Grafton

Break

Session 4  
Auditorium: Strategies for Controlling Your Mites - Greg Hunt  
Room 1: TBA  
Room 2: Overwintering Hives and Nucs - Tim Arheit  
Beeyard: Hive Removal Demonstration

Break

Q&A with the Expert Panel  
Closing Remarks and Drawings
2013 has started with a whirlwind of activity here at OSBA. The Board of Directors had a productive meeting in January. Membership is up from this time a year ago, but we still have a way to go in reaching our membership goals. OSBA is the only voice promoting the bee industry in Ohio. One hundred percent of your dues go back to the membership by providing classes, seminars and conferences as well as promoting the Ohio bee industry. We need the support of all beekeepers in Ohio, so please renew your membership if you haven’t done so and remind the people at your local club about the benefits of being an OSBA member.

On February 9th OSBA sponsored a Honey Judging Class and 28 members attended. The class instructors were Jim Thompson, Carmen Conrad and John Grafton and all attendees received four hours of credit towards the master beekeeper program. Those who completed the class and want to continue in judging honey can now shadow one of the Certified Honey Judges in Ohio and gain additional experience. Terry Lieberman Smith has contacted a number of county fairs and inquired if they were going to have honey entries as part of their fairs. A number have responded and are adding honey judging to their fair and are interested in using our judges for their contest. Thanks Terry!

In February, the Summer Conference Committee met at the Prichard Laughlin Conference Center in Cambridge and toured the facilities. Tim Arheit is in charge of planning the meeting, and he and his committee are well underway to providing an outstanding conference on June 1st. Mark your calendars.

OSBA has recently given Ohio State University and Dr. Reed Johnson $2,500.00 to help with some projects. The money will be used by Doug Sponsler and Eric Percel to further their projects with Ohio honeybees. Doug will be giving us an update at our summer conference. This is the second year in a row in which we were able to help OSU.

The Master Beekeeper Program is gaining in membership. This year we have already approved over 110 hour’s credit toward the program. The list of approved classes is on the website for your reference. Check the website from time to time for an updated list. You will note that some of the approved classes are outside of Ohio and still count toward your Master Beekeeper Program, so you are not limited by what is going on in Ohio.

One of the major changes to the program this year is the record keeping that each candidate must keep. You no longer have to have an instructor sign your attendance form. You simply attend any of the approved classes and copy the code for that particular class in your notebook and keep a copy of the agenda to show proof of attendance. You can now download the simplified forms and instructions from the website. There will be hives at the summer conference for those apprentices who want to do their inspection and receive their Certified Apprentice Level Certificate. The test for the Journeyman’s level is almost complete and will be available soon. Hopefully, we will have it ready for the summer conference as well.

OSBA will have a large tent at the Ohio State Fair this year. OSBA will provide entry and parking passes for those who volunteer. We need three for each day. The dates are Sunday, July 28th through the following Sunday, August 4th. Vendor space is available for $50.00 per day. Contact Nina Bagley at 614-783-7868 with any questions.

Spring is nearly here and it’s time to start working our bees. Unfortunately I’m already getting a lot of calls about winter kills. This may prove to be a very hard year for Ohio bees. Make sure your bees are well feed and check for diseases as soon as possible.

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 email: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com.
OSBA Provides Funding for OSU Honey Bee Research

Honeybee research in Ohio recently received a financial boost with a donation by OSBA to further studies at The Ohio State University. The contribution will support the continuing research of Reed Johnson, assistant professor of entomology at OSU, and graduate student Doug Sponsler. The OSBA funding will be used for an ongoing study that is comparing the foraging opportunities for honeybees in both rural and urban environments within Ohio. In addition, the OSBA funding will support the work of Eric Percel, an agricultural engineering student, who is developing a mechanical system for improving hive ventilation.

Johnson said he is appreciative of the OSBA membership and its enthusiasm and support for his projects. "We are really very grateful for the support OSBA provides for bee research in Ohio," said Johnson, who joined Ohio State in October, 2011. OSBA supported Johnson's research in 2012 and again this year with a $2,500 contribution.

John George, OSBA President, said supporting scientific studies that will yield solutions to the perplexing problems facing Ohio beekeepers is a priority for OSBA. "We want to work closely with Reed and his staff to help sustain honeybee research in Ohio," said George. "It is hoped that growth of the OSBA membership over the next few years will allow additional funding to be directed to OSU honeybee research."

Doug Sponsler will update OSBA on his research at the summer conference on June 1. Johnson will speak at the OSBA Fall Conference on November 2nd in Cambridge OH. See his article on page 15 of this newsletter.

Bee on the Lists and a Short Tour of the OSBA Website!

OSBA is publishing a list of those who will provide pollination services on our website. Anyone who is interested in being added to the list should send their name, contact information (phone/email/website), approximate number of hives available and region of Ohio they can serve (NW, NE, Central, etc...) to webmaster@ohiostatebeekeepers.org.

Did you know that OSBA also has a swarm removal page on our website. Homeowners who need to find a beekeeper can just type in their zip code to get a list of nearby beekeepers willing to take on the task. Beekeepers can list their information, for free, on our website also. Go to http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/swarm-removal/ for further information.

Let’s take a tour of our informative and constantly evolving website.

Our Home Tab shows you a quick summary of the newest items. Whether it’s information on our new window decals, and upcoming conference, or even the most recent edition of our newsletter. He right-hand column lists upcoming events—these are usually submitted by local clubs regarding their meetings or special event. Everyone who comes to the front page sees this information, so why not promote your club! It’s easy to list your event, and it’s free!

(Continued on page 19)
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.
OSBA Logo Contest

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) is holding a contest to choose a more user friendly and identifiable logo. The concept rules are wide open, but the new logo should incorporate both honeybees and Ohio in the design.

OSBA’s current logo:


**Eligibility**
- The Contest is open to US Residents over the age of 18 (Void where prohibited)
- Members of the OSBA Judging Committee (OSBAJC), the contest judges and their immediate family are not eligible to enter the Contest.
- Entrants must be of sufficient legal age and standing to enter into a contract with OSBA.

**Submission**
1. The **deadline** for Entries is midnight (one minute after 2359) on **June 1, 2013**
2. Entrants must agree to the ‘OSBA Logo Contest Official Rules’ as posted on the OSBA website: [www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org)
   - Digital submissions are preferred and should be submitted in high resolution to: 
     - [editor@ohiostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:editor@ohiostatebeekeepers.org)
   - Physical submissions in any medium may be submitted to the follow address and will not be returned unless return postage and envelope is included with the submission:
     - Terry Lieberman-Smith (OSBA Editor)
     - P.O. Box 24181
     - Dayton, OH 45424

**Submission Guidelines**
These are some suggestions to consider when developing your submission:
- The purpose of the contest is to design a new logo for the OSBA. The logo will be used online, in print, on merchandise, etc. Flexibility is a key requirement, including the need to resize easily to any size and to look good in black and white as well as color.
- The use of solid colors is recommended with no shading or gradients because they can be represented better in all media. Using a few colors is generally better than using many different colors due to visibility and production costs.
- The logo should not contain too much text as it may not scale well or be suitable for all purposes.
- The new logo should incorporate the themes of honeybees or beekeeping and the state of Ohio.

**Prizes**
The winner of the logo contest will be announced at the OSBA Fall meeting, November 2nd 2013

- Cash prize of $300.
- Hat and shirt with the new logo.
- A complimentary 1 year OSBA membership
- The right to use the basic logo and identify him/herself as the logo designer.
- ABC & XYZ of Beekeeping

**Judging and Selection of Winner**
The winning design will be selected by judges appointed for the purpose and by the OSBA Judging Committee. Their decision will be final. No further correspondence shall be entered into.

The top submissions selected by the judges will be published in the newsletter and website for voting by the general members. **Voting results will not be the only criteria the judges will use when selecting the winning design.**

The OSBA Judging Committee reserves the right not to select a winner if, in its sole discretion, no suitable entries are received.
OSBA Buzz Bits

Your OSBA Board has been busy representing your association at many of the larger spring conferences.

Thanks to all of Vice-President Tim Arheit, the Beekeeping Training DVD's made their debut at the Tri-County Bee School at the beginning of March. He and David Crawford staffed the OSBA Table at Tri-County. The table was a-buzz with activity. President John George staffed a separate table to sign up new Master Beekeepers. We also handed out the brand-new OSBA window clings at this event. Our winner of the hive raffle at this event was Ron Ashland.

President John George and Newsletter Editor Terry Lieberman-Smith staffed the OSBA Table at the Southwest Ohio Bee School at the end of March. Not only did we sell out of our inventory of DVDs, but we also signed up more than 40 members (and 1 Life Member). Daniel Sullivan, who said that he never wins anything, won the new woodenware! The window clings were quite popular with all of the attendees. Want a window cling? Go to the OSBA Facebook page and find out how to get them.

By the way, OSBA will also have a table at the Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association 3rd Annual Conference.
## Calendar of Events

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>OSBA Summer Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;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><strong>OSBA at the Ohio State Fair</strong>&lt;br&gt;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><strong>OSBA Fall Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;Phil Craft: Keynote Speaker&lt;br&gt;Stay tuned for Details!</td>
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## Second Quarter 2013 Conferences/Seminars

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<th>May 11</th>
<th>Greater Cleveland Beekeeper’s 3 Annual Conference</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Queen Rearing Class&lt;br&gt;Class taught by Dan O’Hanlon, Gabe Blatt, and Joe Kovaleski. Contact Steve Roth for more info: <a href="mailto:sroth29201@comcast.net">sroth29201@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Queen Rearing Class&lt;br&gt;Class taught by Dana Stahlman and Joe Latshaw. Enrollment currently filled</td>
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Come to the Fair

Famed composer, Enoch Martin composed, “Come to the Fair” in 1917. Fairs and beekeepers just seem to go together. Some county fairs in the state of Ohio have been going on for nearly 200 continuous years. I get particularly interested when current beekeepers can share cross generational messages or experiences. But beekeeper entries at county fairs have been on a slow and steady decline.

I was at an OSBA meeting where we were discussing how we could encourage more beekeepers of all ages and experience levels to (re)participate in county fairs. I had been working for several years with fellow beekeepers in my area to increase honey entries at the Butler County Fair in southwestern Ohio.

What was formerly a lackluster fair honey exhibit just a few years ago has expanded into an educational honey exhibit to be proud of. In fact, the beekeeping display has grown so much that it will be one of the featured photographs on the fair book cover for this 2013 year (to the best recollection no honeybee exhibit has graced the fair cover in the 162 year history of the Butler Country Fair). But it took a plan.

Trial and error pointed to five key ingredients or barriers of entry for increasing fair participation: 1) local club sponsorship; 2) critical fair dates; 3) forms; 4) providing containers, and 5) sponsoring a shuttle service.

Club sponsorship is the key. Individual clubs have to provide that voice or incentive to get the ball rolling. It is through this newsletter that OSBA is hoping to work with and be a catalyst to get individual bee organizations to take fair participation on as a club challenge this year. Find or create a “Fair Evangelist” in your group and remind and encourage your members again and again.

Critical fair dates are easy to miss – both for the original entry forms and the entries themselves. We are arguably more distracted with a multitude of opportunities today that our forebears did not have to contend with. Many of us are starting to use external memory devices to cope with planning. Let your bee organization be that external memory reminder.

Many fairs still have you send or physically drop off the fair entry form (note: many fairs offer the opportunity to download the forms; a marked improvement over hunting down fair books). Making these forms available at your regular meetings can create synergy and help drum up enthusiasm and some healthy competition. Equally important to providing the forms are collecting the forms from members and bulk mailing or physically dropping them off at the fair office. This has been shown to dramatically increase entrants.

Many fairs still use glass jars for most liquid honey entries. It turns out that this is not about old school vs. new school. Plastic containers simply do not work with a polariscope which most honey judges still use when gauging honey. Most fair regulations specify glass jars and this is one of those backburner things that beekeepers just do not get around to purchasing; or do not get to in time. The single greatest increase in fair participation came when our local bee clubs ordered the jars and made them available to their members. You might consider providing them for free for a year or two and then at cost until you create a legacy.

Like the fair entry forms we have also found that setting up a collection day and/or place so that members can drop off their entries by a critical date is important. Consider it a “green” event. Instead of having so many members all driving down to the fairgrounds, you can instead send one car or van. Again, this collection and shuttling of entry forms and containers is crucial to increasing fair entrant’s participation.

The main ingredient to eliciting more honey entries at your local fair is to have your local organization’s will and a plan to make things happen. Additionally that plan has to be announced early and often. Ultimately your plan will primarily consist of reducing the barriers of entry by highlighting critical submission dates, providing entry forms and appropriate containers, and by physically collecting and shuttling the forms and entries to the fairs on time. Mix in a little regular encouragement; club peer pressure, healthy competition and you should find that ol’ beekeeping magic occurring as you participate in and continue a county fair legacy.
Going To The Fair— Which One?

Since not all fair websites are currently updated, or offices open, the list below includes fairs that either had honey entries last year, or plan to have entries this year. **Check with your local fair for updated information and rules.** If your county is not listed, but will be offering honey entries, please let us know and we will update the information on our online electronic newsletter!

**June Fairs:**
- Pickaway: pickawaycountyfair.info

**July Fairs:**
- Adams: www.adamscountyfairground.com
- Butler: www.butlercofair.com/fairbook/
- Carroll: www.carrollcountyohio.com/fair/
- Clark: New this year!
- Clinton: clintoncountyfair.org
- Harrison: www.harrisoncountyfair.org/
- Knox (misc. category): www.knoxcountyfair.org/
- Lucas: www.lucuscountyfair.com/
- Seneca: senecacountyfair.org
- Trumbull: www.trumbullcountyfair.com
- Warren: warrencountyfairohio.org

**July/August**
- Columbian: www.columbianacountyfair.org
- Greene: Greenecountyfair.com
- Medina: www.medina-fair.com/
- Preble (farm products): www.preblecountyfair.org/

**August Fairs**
- Allen: www.allencofair.com
- Ashtabula: www.ashtabulafair.com
- Athens: www.athenscofair.org
- Cuyahoga: www.cuyfair.com/
- Darke: www.darkecountyfair.com/
- Huron: www.huroncountyfair.com/
- Lake: www.lakecountyfair.org
- Lorain: www.loraincofair.com
- Meigs: www.themeigscountyfair.com
- Mercer: www.mercountyohiofair.com
- Miami: www.miamicountyohiofair.com/
- Muskingum: www.muskingumcountyfair.com
- Portage: randolphfair.com/
- Richland: www.richlandcountyfair.com
- Ross: www.rosscountyfair.com/fair/
- Sandusky: www.sanduskycountyfair.com
- Scioto: www.sciotocountyfair.org/

**August/Sept.**
- Fulton: fultoncountyfair.com
- Mahoning: www.canfieldfair.com/
- Montgomery: www.montcofair.com/
- Morrow: www.morrowcountyfair.org
- Noble: www.noblecountyfair.net
- Stark: starkcountyfair.com/

**September**
- Ashland: www.loudonvillefair.com/
- Brown: www.browncountyfair.org/
- Coshocton: www.coshoctoncountyfair.org/
- Guernsey: www.guernseycountyfair.org/
- Tuscarawas: www.tuscarawascountyfair.com/
- Williams: www.wcfc.com/
- Wayne: www.waynecountyfairohio.com
- Wyandot: www.wyandotcountyfair.com/

**October:**
- Fairfield: www.fairfieldcountyfair.org

**Fairs That Do Not Have Honey Categories:**
- Auglaize
- Franklin
- Hardin
- Henry
- Logan
- Marion
- Shelby
- Wood

*At the date that this newsletter went to print, the Ohio State Fair’s website did not yet have the entry forms available. Check out the OSBA Website and Facebook page for updates!*
Go to the Ohio State Fair with OSBA!

When you attend the Ohio State Fair, you won’t want to miss the buzz at the OSBA tent at the DiSalle Pavilion! We will be at the fair from July 28th through August 4th from 9 a.m.—7 p.m. daily. OSBA will have so many activities that you might not have time to visit the rest of the fair.

- Ohio Honey Queen will be appearing daily at our tent
- Bee Beard demonstrations daily (if you would like to volunteer, see contact information below)
- Bee-hole Games
- Bee a Bee Photo Op
- Club Display tables
- Vendors

If your club would like to staff a table to promote beekeeping and club activities, OSBA will supply the table and some admission and parking passes. If you sell club honey, there will be a $50 fee. Unable to attend the venue, but would like to still have a presence at the fair, please send your club’s banner to OSBA President John George (8815 Surrey Lane, Plain City, OH 43064).

We are still accepting requests from vendors who would like to have selling space at our tent. If you are interested in participating at the OSBA Tent at the Ohio State Fair, please contact Nina Bagley at: 614-783-7868

Honey Judging Class and Beyond

One of OSBA’s goals is to offer expanded beekeeping education. This year our first specialized class was Honey Judging. Many fairs have dropped honey as a judged entry due to lack of interest, lack of judges, and lack of communication. OSBA’s triple I plan to change this downward spiral is: Increase the number of fairs with honey entries, Increase the beekeeper participation, and Increase the number of Certified Honey Judges.

Increase the number of participating fairs: We have contacted most of the county fairs in order to find out if they have honey categories. While not all fair boards have responded, through the process of asking for information, one fair group has added honey judging!

Increase the number of judges: Fair Certified Honey Judges are not always readily available during the busy County Fair Season. Therefore, OSBA updated the Honey Judging curriculum and scheduled three experienced Honey Judges to teach the day-long session. The class filled quickly and we had to close registration.

Instructors/Judges Jim Thompson, John Grafton and Carmen Conrad shared their enthusiasm and experience with the students. Students who plan on becoming Certified Honey Judges will apprentice at local county fairs and the Ohio State Fair during the coming year. Participants who earned credit for this session.

Increase beekeeper participation: OSBA is working to educate, inform and encourage beekeepers to take that next step and show off their products at fairs. Articles in this newsletter, plus a 3 part class at the OSBA Summer Conference will help you tips and suggestions that will lead you on the road to success at your county and state fair.

Not sure what categories to enter? Why not enter them all….that way if your “amber” entry turns out to be “light”, you will still be eligible for a ribbon.

This year OSBA will once again sponsor the Honey Judging at the Ohio State Fair. Certified Honey Judge Jim Thompson and a few apprentices are looking forward to an avalanche of entries from beekeepers across Ohio.

See you at the fair!
The Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers’ Association is once again looking forward to another exciting year. They held their annual Honey Bee Expo on Feb. 2nd with 320 guests, speakers, vendors and club members. This years keynote speaker was Dr. Greg Hunt, bee specialist from Purdue University. We would like to thank our speakers, vendors, and especially our guests, who without them, this annual event would not be possible. Attendees from five states braved inclement weather to make this event a success. Now that the Expo is over, they are looking at ways to ensure new members have the available club’s resources to successfully maintain their hives, acquire packages or nucs, mentoring, and addressing problems or questions they may have.

Election of officers will be held in March, with nominations taking place at the February meeting. Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except December, at the Washington County Career Center, Marietta, OH. July and August meetings are usually held at Highland Park in Williamstown, WV.

They are currently exploring developing a new website, but for now we are at www.angelfire.com/nb/movba

Butler County Beekeepers Association primary objective is to enhance member’s beekeeping experiences through classroom lecturing, participation, and extensive hand’s mentorship in the beeyard all the while keeping meeting formalities to a minimum. Translated: it’s all about beekeeping.

We have established a four colony apiary (with enclosure) next to our regular meeting facility so that we can literally get in the hives for most of the bee season. The honey sales from these colonies then supports the replacement of lost colonies, together with supporting other club purchases (e.g. hive mover, extractor, solar wax melter, etc.).

The special hive enclosure (contact Ohio-Honey@woh.rr.com for more information) allows visitors to visit and experience bee hives up close without having to wear a suit. We have a dozen plus touring opportunities of all ages (preschool to nursing homes) participate in bee events throughout the season.

We look for group participation projects. An annual event that has become popular is participating in the local country fair. BCBA helps with the containers, forms, and timing to rekindle a 162 year fair legacy.

Next month we have, “The Great Smoke Out”. Member will bring smokers of various sizes and designs together with their own smoker fuel for a compare/contrast show down.

We put on hive construction workshops for new beekeepers. We host a club pot luck that takes place an hour before the regular meeting during the winter and early spring meetings.

Like our bees we beekeepers are social creatures. BCBA hosted the OSBA Summer Meeting last year and continually find that the more events we schedule or sponsor the more our members participate and enjoy their membership. Long story short BCBA looks to provide an educational and rewarding venue and experience to both new and establish beekeepers.

www.ButlerCountyBeekeepers.com

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**Publication Discounts**

**Bee Culture**, A.I. Root Co. Publisher.  
Reg. - $25.00  
**OSBA DISCOUNT** - 19.95

**American Bee Journal**, Dadant & Sons. Publisher  
Reg. - $26.00  
**OSBA DISCOUNT** - $20.25

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**PACKAGE BEES IN OHIO**

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**Cell** - 740-815-7792  
**Email** waldobee@msn.com  
**Website** www.waldobees.com
Mating Biology
The new adult son will mate several times with his sister and with subsequent sisters should they reach adulthood. Mating occurs near the fecal pile. As do queen bees, the female mite will store enough spermatozoa to last her reproductive lifetime. This aspect of mite biology has always been puzzling to me. It would seem to me that such harsh inbreeding would be the downfall of all varroa. Apparently, if an organism is highly adapted to its environment, in-breeding is not necessarily disadvantageous to its genetic survival.

The emerging bee
By the end of the 19th day, the parasitized honey bee pupae makes preparation to emerge on the 20th day – if she is able. As she departs, the new bee gives a ride to the original mother mite and one or two newly mated daughter mites. Typically, an average of 1.4 – 1.5 of the young daughter mites successfully reach adulthood. The male mite stays in the cell where he is killed, or dies naturally, and is removed by house bees.

The condition of the emerging bee
Parasitized worker bees commonly are underweight and have deformed wings and may have been infected with bacteria and/or viruses. Such weakened, undersized bees tend to fly earlier, not return from orientation flights more often, and die more easily during winter months. If the wings are so extensively deformed that the bee can’t fly, she soon dies.

Environmental conditions also play an important role. It seems that the better the nectar flow, the poorer the mites’ chances. Too many bees are outside the hive on foraging trips. Yet, long winters that force bees to live more closely are conducive to mite success. Consequently, all colonies are not affected at the same rate and same intensity. Honey bee hygienic behavior clearly plays an important role in resisting mite infestations.

Colony congestion
In general, putting colonies near each other – i.e. in bee yards or beneath nets on trucks – is not good. All diseases and pests are much more easily spread. Varroa population increases certainly result from congested, stressed colonies with lower honey crops. Congestion (bee drifting) is not the only reason, but is an important reason that varroa mites are spread from colony to colony.

Controlling varroa mites in colonies
No beekeeper, anywhere in the world, has been able to develop a foolproof method of consistently controlling varroa. Natural resistance is desirable, but does not eradicate the mite. To a greater or lesser extent, all chemicals – hard or soft – have some unintended effect on the honey bees in the colony. If we kept our colonies singly and miles apart, a lesser chemical program could probably be used (assuming all other environmental conditions are favorable).

Few of us like using chemicals in our colonies. But the reality is that if we keep colonies near each other and occasionally move them to new pollination sites, sooner rather than later, we are all going to have problems with out-of-balance varroa populations. Select a legal chemical with which you are comfortable and use it sparingly and correctly. Always be looking for a chemical replacement. What presently works well for your bees will not always work well. The life cycles of bees and mites, combined with environmental variations, are too complicated for us to expect an easy, one-time, chemical fix.

Bee diseases in general
I have only reviewed and discussed varroa infestations. (Continued on page 13)
No bee disease can be ignored. For instance, if I allow a colony to become weakened by a Nosema infection, manageable varroa populations can use the weakness to exploit the colony. Stress the colony as little as possible. For the most part, leave the colony alone. At some point, the colony is responsible for itself.

Reference resources:

Dr. James E. Tew
One Tew Bee, LLC
(330)345-8336
Tewbee2@gmail.com
http://www.onetew.com

**OSBA in 1911...We’ve Come a Long Way**

Compiled by Jim Thompson

In 1911, the meeting of the Ohio Beekeepers met in Cincinnati at the Grand Hotel in Halls No. 1 & 2, February 16th and 17th. The Secretary was Henry Reddert. Charles H. Weber spoke on “Shipping Comb Honey to Market”. Mr. Chalon Fowls spoke on “How to Increase the Demand for Honey by Building up Trade at the Groceries”. He was promoting a product called Honey Butter which was defined as granulated honey in brick form. Professor N.E. Shaw spoke on “The Foul-brood Situation in Ohio”. He had a chart of the state which showed about 1/3 of the state infected. It is interesting to note that this was the first year for inspection and that the state had appropriated $2000 for the inspection work. E.R. Root spoke on “Modern Methods of Extracted Honey” and American Foulbrood Differentiated from European Foulbrood”. Mr. J.G. Creighton told of the “Foulbrood in and around Cincinnati” area. E.R. Root spoke of “The Value of Bees in Fertilizing Fruit-blossoms”.

Officers were elected for 1911:
President – D.H. Morris
Vice President – Frank Hammerle
Secretary – A.N. Noble
Treasurer – Charles H. Weber
Executive Committee – G.G. Lingo, William Schmees, C.A. Brooks, J.C. Creighton, & Fred W. Hammerle

A date for the next meeting was set for February 15th and 16th, 1912 in Springfield, Ohio. There was an increase of 18 new members, so the Treasurers report was:
Receipts to Date $15.00
Disbursements $9.65
Balance on Hand $5.35

The first state apiarists report was August 15, 1911 and was 16 pages long and showed the quantities and locations of EFB and AFB present in the state.

It is interesting to notice the changes over the years. The name of the organization varied. It was known as: Ohio State Bee-keepers, Ohio Beekeepers Association, and Ohio State Beekeepers’ Association. The position of Secretary and Treasurer started out as two separate offices then were combined and then separated again. The meetings were initially annual meetings then they went to two meetings per year and currently there are three meetings per year. When there were two meetings per year, the early meeting was called the winter meeting or convention and was usually two days in length. It was usually the meeting where officers were elected and the first day was for starting beekeepers or novices. The second day was for commercial beekeepers. The summer meetings were usually called field days and became more of a social event rather than serious beekeeping. The early meetings would draw 250 to 300 people compared to the 100 people that attend today (1980). Very little advertising was done to encourage beekeepers to come to the meetings and the advertising that was done came only days before the meetings. There was a lot of interaction with local and other state organizations where joint meetings were held. One time it was mentioned that attendance was dropping off at the winter meetings but was very good at the summer (field) meetings. The field meetings were usually three days in length and many times were in the middle of the week. There was very little effort to have the meetings in various parts of the state. The majority of the meetings were held in either Columbus or Medina. If the meetings were held at other locations, they were held near a commercial beekeepers operation.
Better Record Keeper, Better Beekeeper

Alex Zomchek

I have started this new year on a mini-crusade. Let me quickly explain lest you get the wrong idea. It started simply; I was given a “bee” themed composition tablet for Christmas by my daughter who appreciates/tolerates my affections for all things honey bees (this is the same daughter who bought me a large “Beekeeper’s Blvd” sign last Christmas to hang above my office door at Miami University’s Ecology Research Center.)

This composition book has that “feel good” quality to it. It is printed with soy ink, made from 100% recycled paper, and is printed in the United States. Further, the honeycomb cover theme is supposed to remind me not to use it for any other purpose. (Yes, I confess I am one of those people. By nature I am a habitual note taker and list maker. I jot down notes on napkins and backs of receipts. I write in the margins of books, and perhaps worse - I “cross-pollinate” my various notebooks with trivia ranging from recipes to sketches to all sorts of errata).

After carrying my new “bee book” to various meetings and lectures I found I was constantly being asked about it. It kept becoming a conversation piece. Somewhere in all those inquiries; together with my annual New Year’s resolutions to be a better beekeeper, to eat better, to exercise more, etc., I was unwittingly closing in on a plan.

I have preached for years the importance of good note taking throughout the bee season and especially in the bee yard when things are fresh. Experience has taught that better record keeping makes for better beekeeping. But I noticed that few beekeepers actually take regular notes. Many have good intentions to be sure, but just like those New Year’s resolutions, it is tough to consistently discipline oneself. Then the final penny dropped.

I was at an OSBA meeting where we were discussing how we could encourage more beekeeper participation in county fairs. I have been working for several years with fellow beekeepers in my area to increase honey entries at the Butler County Fair.

Long story short we discovered several things that have since turned a lackluster fair exhibit into something that is truly splendid and educational to the general public. (See “Come to the Fair!” article). By overcoming a few, predictable barriers (dates, forms, jars, etc.) and with a little intervention we were seeing greater county participation year over year.

So there it was – my bee composition book solution literally staring me in the face. Could we do the same thing with note taking that we did with getting more beekeeper fair entries? By adopting a dedicated, visually memorable, seasonal bee journal - would this reduce that barrier to literally making “entries”. I was on to something. I then coupled the journal with a web blog to promote the sharing of note taking ideas (see: beejournals@blogspot.com). Lastly, I am following up with a friendly notebook competition (just like at the fair). Done!

It is hoped that this bee composition book can be a catalyst to becoming better beekeepers. I have voiced this to several OSBA members and bee organizations and received enthusiastic responses. So, there’s the plan; now comes the execution part. We have to get beekeepers on board. What do you say – ready for a Beekeeper’s New Year’s Resolution?

How am I doing on my journey to be a better record keeper/beekeeper so far this year? Well, first I thought I had lost my composition book when I had scanned its decorative cover to create a laser etched plaque for a fellow beekeeper honoring his many years of service, but its distinctive cover helped it find its way back home. Undeniable smudges show I have inadvertently used it as a coaster for beverages. I’ve left it in meeting rooms, lecture halls, and a friends’ car – and it keeps showing up (“Oh hey! This must belong to that ‘Bee Guy’”).

It has a few errant non-bee related entries in it (tasks, grocery lists, recipes etc.). I recently tore out a few pages (gasp!) when challenged to a paper airplane flying contest. But for the most part it lies around in the flotsam and jetsam of life until I trip across its unique cover design and I am reminded to pen a few notes.

Oh, to be sure my bee composition book has entries on: the erratic weather our bees have been subjected to, and the dates when the first snow drops and crocuses bloomed. I also have drawings of a new demo, mini observation hive as well as a “crystal hive” project. I have some newspaper clippings, business cards, and as I recently rediscovered – some digital pictures of early brood patterns from my hives kept near the house. And there are “other” entries as well. But in summary, my composition book has become that place for my dreams, and goals, and plans for becoming a better record keeper and, and hence, better beekeeper.
Premise of the 2012 New Colony Survey

This time last year, Dr. Reed Johnson and I began to explore the question of how landscape characteristics affect honey bee success. In particular, we were intrigued by the urban beekeeping movement that is taking hold in many cities across the United States and Europe. Amid the mysterious and discouraging honey bee declines that have marked recent years, positive stories of successful apiculture in urban areas have attracted enormous attention and sparked renewed enthusiasm toward beekeeping. Out of this phenomenon has emerged a widespread conclusion: bees do better in cities than in the agricultural countryside.

But are cities really beneficial to bees? Can intensive agricultural really be blamed for honey bee declines? And if urban and agricultural land use influence honey bee success, what specific factors are responsible? Pesticides? Floral diversity? These questions are critical to the future of beekeeping in a rapidly changing world.

In our 2012 New Colony Survey, we asked Ohio beekeepers to help us find answers. Our survey was open to beekeepers who were starting new hives from package bees. Each participant reported the location of their hive in early spring and the productivity of their hive at the end of the season. We then looked for a relationship between the landscape and productivity of each hive.

Results of 2012 Hive Survey

To characterize the landscape around each hive, we used a map provided by the National Land Cover Database that divides regions according to land cover. We were interested in urban and agricultural land cover, so we drew a three kilometer radius around each hive (a conservative estimate of honey bee foraging range) and calculated the amount of urban and agricultural land contained within each circle. Figure 1 shows the landscape of my study hive at the OARDC in Wooster, OH.

When we compared the landscape of each hive to its success, we found that there was no significant relationship between urban land cover and hive success. In other words, bees in highly urban areas did not do better than bees in agricultural areas.

So, should we conclude that landscape has no effect on honey bee success? No, there seems to be more to this story. While it is too early to make any firm conclusions, the most successful hives in our study tended to be the ones at intermediate levels of urbanization around the edges of cities. This makes a lot of sense. Honey bees have a very large foraging range, so they are not limited to the immediate vicinity of their hive. Moreover, they possess a remarkable ability to search out and cooperatively exploit the highest quality foraging areas available within their range. Since urban and rural areas differ in their floral assemblages and blooming patterns, a hive located on the edge of a city should experience a “best of both worlds” scenario, being able to exploit the resources of both urban and rural landscapes while being buffered against scarcity in either landscape.

While the primary goal of our 2012 survey was to study the effect of landscape on hive success, there is another factor that we wanted to account for: the beekeeper. Have you ever wondered whether good beekeeping skills really matter? Is it all just up to the bees? In our survey, we asked each participant to tell us how many years of experience he or she had in beekeeping. Our assumption was that, in general, beekeeping skill increases with years of experience. Would this increase in skill lead to more successful hives? The answer we found was a strong “yes”. Of all the factors we measured in our survey, beekeeper experience was the most reliable predictor of hive success. This finding emphasizes the importance of bee-
**2012 New Colony Survey**  
*(Continued from page 15)*

keeping associations and educational programs that offer training and mentorship to new beekeepers.

**Upcoming Research in 2013**

The 2013 New Colony Survey will work just like the 2012 survey, only this time we want to go bigger. Over one hundred Ohio beekeepers responded to our invitation to join the 2012 survey! That was a great start, but we’re confident that we can get a lot more people involved this year. **Please contact me if you are interested in getting involved!** Another goal of the 2013 survey is to focus more on the importance of beekeeper training and mentorship. Since we found that beekeeper experience was a reliable predictor of hive success in 2012, we expect that training and mentorship will also be correlated with better hive success.

**Honey Tracker 2013** is a project designed to determine the precise timing and duration of nectar flows in different landscapes. Using a novel hive scale based on the design of Tom Rearick ([www.beehacker.com](http://www.beehacker.com)), I will take daily weight readings of hives located in urban, rural, and interface landscapes. My predictions are (1) that urban and rural hives will demonstrate different nectar flow patterns and (2) that hives located on the city edge will demonstrate the most sustained nectar flows due to their simultaneous foraging in urban and rural landscapes.

**Conclusion**

I would like to extend sincere thanks to the Ohio State Beekeepers Association for generously funding the 2012 New Colony Survey. It has been such a privilege to work closely with the Ohio beekeeping community over this past year. I’ve enjoyed meeting some of you personally, and I hope to have more opportunities to do so during this coming spring and summer. I welcome your input at any time, and look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Doug Sponsler  
Graduate Research Associate  
Department of Entomology  
The Ohio State University, OARDC  
7 March, 2013  
Thorne Hall 210  
1680 Madison Ave  
Wooster, OH 44691  
Email: sponsors.18@osu.edu  
Phone: 614-233-1676

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**New 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.

- Gregg Butler
- Carmen Conrad
- Gordon Fetters
- Monna Hess
- Donna J. Jones
- Richard McKinley
- Phil McCutcheon
- William Miller
- Thomas Rathbun
- Alan Wischmeyer
- Alex Zomchek

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+ 1 - 4x7 smoker and fuel
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$312.95
Plant Resources for Honey Bees, Part 1
Why you, as a beekeeper, should care about this topic!

Honey bees, and the vast majority of other bee species, derive almost all of their nutrition from plant sources, mostly from flowers. Plant nectar, which is primarily sugars in a water solution, is offered as a reward to attract pollinators (and other beneficial insects) to visit flowers. Honey bees use nectar directly for energy and water needs, convert it to honey for storage, and convert it to wax. Pollen, which contains “male” plant genetic material, is transferred among individual flowers and plants by bees, facilitating new genetic combinations in the plants’ offspring. Pollen provides most of the bees’ nutritional requirements (protein/amino acids, lipids, vitamins, minerals, sterols, starch), except for the carbohydrates and water from nectar.

Given this critical importance, it seems to me that many beekeepers, even most, have an unusually low level of interest in plants. Bees go out and get something — bring it back to the hive and convert it to honey, more bees, and wax, and propolis (also manufactured from plant material). The mechanics or the process and types and locations of plants responsible for this benefit are frequently mysterious. I have been told quite a few times that the white clover (also called Dutch clover, Trifolium repens) inhabiting a beekeeper’s lawn was one of the major plants responsible for a colony’s success. This is highly unlikely, unless the area with lawn is large and has a high ratio of clover to other plants, the clover is able to sustain bloom for long periods because it has adequate moisture, and mowing of active flowers is limited. Foraging honey bees visit impressively high number of blossoms in order to collect enough nectar to produce a pound of honey, sometimes listed as 2 million floral visits per pound. A healthy clover population in the lawn could certainly supplement resources from other plants.

Honey bees may visit flowers at any time of the year when they are in bloom and weather permits foraging. These bees are extremely versatile in using many different types of plants for food, including some “wind-pollinated” grasses and trees, even attempting to collect dust from bird feeders, fine bird seed, or flour during warm spells in winter. The ability to use many different plants, ability to search large areas for plants and communicate locations to other foragers, and ability to store food for use during periods with little or no income, are some reasons why honey bees have been such successful organisms in most of the areas of the world, despite extreme differences in land forms, climate, and plant types.

Most floral resources are collected within a 3 to 4 mile radius of their hive, with the most intense floral visitation occurring within 200-500 yards. Cold, rainy, or windy weather causes foragers to constrict the radius and remain much closer to the hive. If great bee plants are located more than 5 miles away from the hive, scouts will probably not find them or foragers will be unlikely to exploit them effectively. Beekeepers should try to learn which plants are useful to their bees, where patches with concentrations of these plants exist, and locate their apiaries accordingly — assuming that there is some choice in the matter. It may be possible to improve forage near apiaries by planting or otherwise encouraging better bee plants (e.g. removal of competing plants, fertilizing, or watering desirable plants). One of the objectives of this article, and two companion articles to follow, is to help identify which plants provide good resources for honey bees in Ohio.

What makes a type of plant a good bee plant

The factors that make a plant species valuable to bees are a combination of the plant’s internal properties and environmental or external circumstances. By internal properties, I mean characteristics of the plant itself; under external circumstances I include such things as plant distribution, weather/climate, and soil. Honey bees tend to seek flowers that have nectar with higher sugar content. They also favor flowers that might have moderate concentrations of sugar, if the flowers are abundant or otherwise easily accessible. They tend to be considerably less interested in flowers that have low concentrations of sugar or no nectar at all. However, they might visit flowers that have relatively low sugar concentrations, if there isn’t anything more valuable available at the time, or if they are primarily collecting pollen. Fig. 1 (Page 25) provides a few examples of plants with different nectar content.

Some plants that have relatively high sugar concentrations in nectar still might not be actively sought after by honey bees, because of the flower structure. Worker bee’s tongue length is approximately 6 mm. Some plant species have a corolla (floral tube) that is too long and narrow for honey bees to reach the nectar at the base of the tube (e.g. some honeysuckles - Lonicera, some bee-balms - Monarda). These plants are typically adapted to pollinators with longer tongues, such as some bumble bees, moths, or hummingbirds. Foraging honey bees sometimes use their mandibles to bite through the side of the corolla to get closer to the nectar, and engage in “robbing” the flower (no pollination for the plant!). This is extra work for the bee, so the benefit is hopefully worth-

(Continued on page 25)
**Bee Lists and Website (Continued from page 3)**

The **About OSBA Tab** provides information about OSBA, our history, Constitution meeting minutes, etc. Our history goes back to 1888. Stop by and read some of our past newsletters, that are available. Thanks to Jim Thompson.

The **Events Tab** has the monthly calendar that shows all types of submitted bee events. Here is where, at no cost, you can help promote your club.

The **Announcement Tab** keeps you up to date with the latest news.

The **Links Tab** is just that….links to great beekeeping information on the web.

The general public will be most interested in the **Swarm Removal Tab**, as previously mentioned.

Another tab of great interest to newbees or those who want to become newbees is the **Associations Tab**. Not all clubs have internet links, so consider submitting your information here in order to help your club reach potential new members.

We’re always busy on the **Contact Us Tab**...answering questions and fielding spam (what else is new!)

Although the next row of tabs will be covered our next issue of Ohio Beekeeping, we did want to mention that if you are an OSBA member, or advertiser in our newsletter, you can also advertise on our website **at no cost**. Whether you have equipment to sell, honey, or queens, OSB, a website is the place to list.

Speaking of lists, we also have an in-depth list of Queen, Nuc, and Package suppliers.

More of the tour next quarter!

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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.

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.

Lawrence “Larry/Sonny” B. McCullough, 85, of Continental passed away on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at Bridge Hospice, Bowling Green, Ohio.

He was a beekeeper and a founding member of the NW Ohio Beekeeper Association. Larry also served on the Board of Directors for the Ohio State Beekeepers Association and was a Director in 1998 and 1999.

Larry loved gardening and traveling. He was a carpenter for McDonald Construction for over 30 years and a member of the Union.

He was born on May 14, 1927 to Lawrence and Jennie (Kretzinger) McCullough in Putnam County, OH. Larry first married Margaret Carncross and they had four children who survive: daughter Carol (Bob) Baker of Brant Lake, NY, son Michael (Judith) McCullough of San Francisco, CA, daughters, Patrice Jackson of Berkely, CA and Edythe (David) Stocking of Ft. Wayne, IN. He then married Lodema Brown Pletcher in 1969 and she preceeded him in death in 2010. He is also survived by a stepdaughter, Sheila McNally and Bob Miller both of Bloomdale, OH, 6 grandsons and 4 great grandchildren and his cat, Shawn.

Victor “Vic” C. Thompson passed away December 13, 2012 at the age of 92. He came to Ohio from Iowa State and worked as the beekeeping technician helping with the research in genetic studies conducted by Dr. Rothenbuhler at OSU. “Vic” as he was called by his friends served OSBA in many capacities. He was recognized twice by OSBA as Beekeeper of the Year (1974 and 1981). He served as OSBA Treasurer from 1975 to 1978 and he could be counted upon for his advice and help.

He earned his BS in Entomology from Kansas State University and his Master’s in Apiculture-Study of Honey bees from Iowa State University. He studied under both Dr. Rothenbuhler and Dr. O.W. Parks.

He was an expert on the study of AFB and co-authored a number of articles on the topic with Dr. Rothenbuhler. He was a long-time member of COBA.
Changes in Beekeeping Over My Lifetime—Part II

Dana Stahlman

Reduced yields of surplus honey over this 60 year span. In my own case, only 20 years ago I could count on producing a barrel of honey for every ten hives of bees I had in central Ohio apiaries. That is only a 60 pound average but I was also producing package bees from these same hives and raising queens. I saw year by year reduced land available for bees to gather nectar --growth of human population resulted in land taken out of nectar production and replaced by blacktop, green yards and roof tops.

Bee yard locations would support a number hives of bees and as this change began, beekeepers realized the number of hives in a bee yard had to be reduced to get a honey crop.

Most of the commercial beekeeping industry in Ohio is gone. Beekeeping is hard work and the reward is a good honey crop. Commercial beekeepers depended upon pollination fees which by the way remain strong, but the honey crop could no longer be counted upon to provide the profit required to support a beekeeping family or business. There are very few individual families that support themselves with just income from honey bees.

Individuals keeping large numbers of hives now must supplement income with some other source of funds. It is becoming common for retired individuals to go into beekeeping on a larger scale supported not by the bee income but by the retirement income. Thus, what we are experiencing now is the sideliners beekeeper – who depends upon farmer markets by bottling and selling the honey their bees produce; some who sells package bees by transporting the bees from the south to Ohio; queen production; collecting pollen, selling hive equipment; or a combination of all of these. And yes, the production of hive products such as soap and wax products.

So what effect has this had on beekeeping?
1. The loss of beekeepers during this period was drastic. Many people keeping bees were referred to by bee inspectors as “bee havers”. I met many of them in the early 1990’s as bee inspector for Delaware County.

2. Canada banned bees from the U.S. because of the mite problem. Of course the mites did not read the sign at the U.S./Canadian border saying do not enter. It caused the U.S. bee package producing industry in the South to almost go out of business .

3. On the other hand, individuals like myself benefitted because we were finding customers for our own bees – I had bees in Georgia, Indiana and Ohio. Most Southern package producers sent bees north thru the U.S. mail and I could drive my bees up I – 75 to waiting customers who had lost bees over the winter.

4. Many new beekeepers looked upon beekeeping quite differently than the old timers. They were mostly new- bees who accepted the fact that bees were being challenged and they were willing to purchase bees year after year to keep hives going.

5. The new reality is that many people are involved in beekeeping

Introduction Pest

Beekeeping in the 1950’s through the early 80’s was pretty much the same as what it was 50 years earlier. The common accepted hive was the 10 frame Langstroth but one would on occasion see a Dadant jumbo hive, a Root Buckeye Hive, and even some common box hives. The biggest disease problem was American foulbrood. I cannot recall any chalkbrood problems until the 1980’s. Some people built their own hives rather than buying them. The land grant universities were into producing a lot of beekeeping literature as was USDA. One could expect survival rates for bees in the 90% range without using any chemicals (in fact it was detestable to put any chemicals into the bee hive).

However, chemicals were used (sulfa drugs used for American foulbrood) and carbolic acid used to drive bees out of supers.) Ohio apiary laws were applied much more seriously back then than now. Apiary inspectors could burn hives with AFB without the current standard of providing the beekeeper the right to hearings and even the right to no consent. The late 1970’s resulted in law suits against ODA in which beekeepers won court cases because the state did not provide beekeepers with the right to hearings (Due Process) regarding actions taken by county bee inspectors.

The mid ’80’s brought about great challenges and changes to the hive management. Tracheal mites were discovered in Florida and the beekeeping magazines were making beekeepers aware of the new pest introduced. Most of us thought the mites would never get our bees but within several years, all of us saw large number of bee hives starting to die. The chemical rush was on – stuff was being put into hives because beekeepers were at a loss to understand what mites were. Tracheal mites were quickly followed by Varroa and then came hive beetles and all of us were then waiting for the African honey bee to show up in the U.S. and the fear of AHB genetics ending up in our honey bees and the results of it.

(Continued on page 22)
Changes in Beekeeping (Continued from page 21)

many areas of beekeeping research to resolve the problem with honey bee survival. The new reality is that no matter what past experience you have had, you need to learn more about new techniques and within a year or two, a new beekeeper is as much of an expert as the guy who has kept bees for years and years.

6. There is now a willingness to change beekeeping methods and seek solutions outside the box.

Bees
During my lifetime, I have owned at one time or another just about any breed or brand of honey bee advertised in the bee journals. I liked the Starline best of all. I even owned some German Black bees at one time (glad they were not very hardy — many bad characteristics). I was strongly influenced by Steve Tabor and like him I was always looking for the super bee.

It is clear that a hive of bees is a perennial live community of individual insects who owe their existence to a queen. They have survived for eons without any help from mankind. We may try to manipulate the genetic makeup of the queen but the fact is any genetic change is as Sue Coby explained, put something in and something else comes out. Until we can clone a queen bee — create an exact duplicate, queen rearing will always be a challenge.

The question is – are our bees poorer than the bees of past years? Can we judge the bees of today with bees from 20 to 50 years ago? First, let me say that the bees of the above period did not have to deal with today’s problems and challenges. They had better foraging possibilities, and less manipulation with the use of chemicals. They also did not face the stress of today’s pests.

Today’s general public is convinced that bees are not surviving and we can thank the news media for the hype on disappearing disease etc. But our bees do survive and some survive without chemicals and hive manipulations. Many states, universities, and USDA have projects developing gene pools and breeding programs looking for that super bee.

It is one area where beekeeping efforts by alert beekeepers can continue selecting great breeding stock and getting it into the hands of beekeepers who will evaluate and test the lines developed. It is my belief that our bees today are better than bees of 40 – 50 – 60 years ago.

Production of honey records and hive survival really are not guidelines that can be used to compare the bees of that period with today. We are environmentally challenged as a civilization. Farming now exists as a crop or animal science producing better yield and higher profit. Urban sprawl and the desire of dandelion-free yards is an obsession. It is not only the honey bee that is facing the challenge of survival; butterflies, bats, birds and other creatures are facing the same problem.

Change in our social system is highly encouraged and called progress. We are spending great amounts of money on new hospitals and technologies. New technologies are being developed which will improve some aspect of our existence and this will continue. We will find ways to extract more oil and gas from our shale beds and find a way to provide the water required to make all of this possible. As Sue Coby pointed out, you put something in and something else comes out. Is the honey bee the canary in the mine? At least, 50 years ago, beekeepers did not have to worry about that question!

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.
Using Hive Products in Personal Care—A Few Starter Recipes
Terry Lieberman-Smith

Before your skin absorb any moisture, you need to exfoliate the dead cells away. Here’s a really easy recipe:

1 cup light brown sugar (or a mix of brown sugar and sea salt)
1/4 cup oil of choice (olive, almond, jojoba, etc.)
3 T. honey

Measure brown sugar into container. Make sure there are no lumps. Add oil and honey. Stir to combine. I fixed this in one of those cute quilted jelly jars. It makes a lovely presentation.

Non-petroleum jelly.

1/2 c. oil (your choice. I usually use oil that has been infused with calendula petals and propolis)
1 oz cleaned beeswax

Melt oil and beeswax together in a double boiler. Remember beeswax is flammable so do not melt it over an open flame. Pour into containers, let cool.

Now here comes the fun part. Why not make a gift set for your busy friend? Make the exfoliator using an oil that has been infused with dried lavender petals. When you make the moisturizer, you can use an oil that has also been infused with lavender petals. Place your matching lavender scented skin care products in a small basket that has been lined with lavender wash-cloth. A thoughtful and personalized gift for a busy person.

For your busy friend who spends a lot of time on their feet, peppermint is the way to go. Use a peppermint essential oil to scent your products. Place your products in a little basket, add a pair of white socks, and your friend will have the best cared for feet.

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greater cleveland beekeepers association
3rd annual conference

Topic: Natural Beekeeping
Saturday, May 11, 2013
Case Western Reserve University Farm
37125 Fairmount Blvd. Hunting Valley, Ohio 44022

Keynote Speakers:


Janet Clayton: “Honeybee Health”: Janet is a Master Beekeeper and served as editor of the WVBA Newsletter. Her recent work on a new honey processing facility has fueled her interest in this topic. Janet will give some valuable insights for beekeepers wishing to improve their honeybee health.

Contact Person: Richard Manley
Email/Phone: ramciw@aol.com, 216.712.4553
Website: www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com
I am fortunate enough to participate in a large bulk order once a year. Although sorting the pieces to over 800 frames each March is somewhat of a daunting task (a really big tinker-toy project), the short-lived pain of counting translates to quite a bit saved in the pocketbook. Coordinating in order for over 20 people can get a bit hair-raising but thankfully a spreadsheet with multiple tabs can save the day.

If you are not so fortunate to participate in this type of order through your club or class, you can still save a lot of money with the upcoming OSBA Summer Conference, June 1. We are gathering together a great group of vendors to help fulfill all of your beekeeping needs. We will be updating our website to reflect the additions as we get closer to our conference date.

We certainly have a late start to the season, but it’s never too early to keep your eye out for items that you will need. If you plan on feeding sugar water to your bees and do not want to pay for top-feeder, you can always go to the thrift store or garage sales and pick up Mason jars for pennies apiece. These jars conserve as your bees buffet until the plants start producing enough nectar to stock the bees larder. Some stores are even beginning to stock cases of mason jars that would be perfect for your honey harvest.

Many stores have seeds on sale, so why not plan for a bountiful beeyard the season. Bees adore almost any herbs; lavender, mint, sage, basil, almost any sweetly scented plant. Remember to plant them in a cluster rather than have them spread out through your garden. I know that my girls enjoyed all the hyssops that I had planted within my vegetable garden.

Hopefully you will make the time to plant all the trees that you purchased through your County Soil and Water Department. My own experience has shown that they do not last too long in pots.

Recently I downloaded a copy of a book by C.C Miller called “A Thousand Answers to Beekeeping Questions”. Had I purchased the book I would have paid upwards of $25, but I downloaded it to my phone for free. Although the information is a bit dated (carbolic acid used in the hive?) I will admit, the basic fundamentals of beekeeping are still quite sound and enlightening. Thanks to Cornell University, a wealth of books can be had for free. http://archive.org/

finding the time to read the books however is a whole another story!

No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

HOB-C3
(Honey Oatmeal Butterscotch Chocolate Chip Cookies)

1 cake mix (Caramel, or any flavor)
2 eggs
1/3 c. honey
1/3 c. oil
1/4 c. flour
3/4 c. oatmeal
1/2 c. butterscotch chips
1/2 c. chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350F. Grease a 9x13 pan
Mix together eggs, honey and oil in a bowl. In a separate bowl stir together cake mix, flour and oatmeal. Add dry mix to honey mix. Blend. Add in chips (you could also throw in a handful of raisins).
Spread mixture into prepared pan
Bake for about 20 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean.
Let cool. Cut into squares.
Pollen is collected, mostly from plants that also produce nectar, but also from nectarless, wind-pollinated plants (e.g. elms), when it is available and other pollen sources are scarce. Usually the pollen of these wind-pollinated plants is nutritionally inferior to that of animal-pollinated plants. The main stimulus for pollen collection is brood-rearing, especially combined with scarcity of stored pollen within the hive, and at least minimally favorable foraging conditions (temperatures >40°F). The methods of evaluation used to evaluate pollen quality include relative stimulation of development of hypopharyngeal glands and fat bodies in nurse bees (both involved with brood care) and chemical analysis of pollen, especially amino acid concentration and type in relation to that used by bees. Pollen from fruit trees, willows, some legumes (e.g. sweetclovers), and corn are nutritionally superior to that of dandelion, which is far better than pollen from coniferous plants.

Besides having adequate nectar quality, quantity, and accessibility, and pollen suitability (internal properties), plants need to be present in reasonable quantities within the foraging area, and blooming while bees are active, in order for their contribution to be meaningful. The distribution and density of plants is partially determined by limitations imposed by soil type, and climate (precipitation and temperature range). I would love to plant a sourwood (Oxydendrum arborea) and a water tupelo (Nyssa aquatic) for my bees, but the soil is too alkaline for the former and winters are too cold for the latter. Some of Ohio's best bee plants are much more limited by human activity than nature. As a society, we don't place much value on high quality natural ecosystems, and when we alter, then reconstruct, new systems, we don't place meaningful emphasis on restoring plants that might provide food for pollinators. As a result, we have decimated populations of many high quality native bee plants (e.g. basswood, Tilia Americana; common persimmon, Diospyros virginiana), and a disturbingly high proportion of our present day bee forage consists of "weedy" introduced invasive plant species. Some of these include autumn olive (Elaeagnus umbellata), purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria), glossy and common buckthorns (Rhamnus cathartica and R. frangula), and Asian bush honeysuckles (Lonicera morrowii and L. tartarica). These plants tend to reproduce aggressively and in many cases are very competitive. They may be good resource plants for bees, but many have negative side-effects, such as degrading habitat available for native plants, in some cases posing a threat to their continued existence. There certainly is a valuable role that beekeepers could play is helping society decide what to plant, and not plant. Lots of ash trees will be leaving us during the next decade, and many of them will be replaced with something else. What will that be?

Some other factors to consider in evaluating bee plants are the seasonal timing of bloom, the duration of flowering, and the reliability of nectar and/or pollen production year-to-year. A plant that blooms in mid-summer, such as summersweet (Clethra alnifolia) or white sweet clover (Melilotus alba), raises its importance because relatively few other bee plants are flowering at that time. Some important early-season plants, such as red maple (Acer rubrum, usually blooming during March), would undoubtedly be much less visited by bees if they bloomed at the same time as black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). Most trees and shrubs bloom for 1 to 3 weeks during the year. A plant that provides nectar and/or pollen for a longer period...
Editor’s Note

To paraphrase Marvin Gaye’s question of, “what’s growing on, hey what’s growing on”...there’s a whole lot growing on with OSBA. Logo Contest, Website, Facebook, specialized classes, educational conferences, promoting local clubs, the OSBA Pavilion at the State Fair, and the list is growing!

Enter the OSBA Logo contest for a chance to help create a fresh image for OSBA. The prizes are nice too!

Have you visited our Facebook page recently? We’re providing updated information on beekeeping in Ohio, and the ever popular weekly honey-based recipe. Our website is filled with great information for beekeepers of all levels of experience... videos, club information, Master Beekeeper updates, and more. Stop by and get acquainted with our online outreach.

The fun part about beekeeping is that you get to expand your knowledge and learn new techniques every year. Why not step out of your comfort zone, yet a little bit more and enter your hive products at your County Fair. Proud of your bees and the wonderful gifts of the hive? Then take a few moments to help support beekeeping by participating in your County Fair, or even the State Fair! While Ohio has quite a few counties that offer honey judging at their yearly fair, many counties have stopped the entries due to lack of interest by beekeepers (hard to believe). Get out there and share your products with the world! A nice addition to your label would be “1st Place Winner 2013.” If your county fair currently does not offer beekeepers the opportunity to display their hive products, why not work with your association and your fair board to include hive products in next year’s fair? Sometimes all it takes is to knock on their door and ask. If you need help in locating a Certified Honey Judge, or putting together the contest rules, feel free to contact OSBA and we can assist you in this project.

Since not everybody knows how to prep for the fair, OSBA will be offering a three part series class at the upcoming Summer Conference on June 1 in Cambridge, Ohio. We want to help give you the confidence to boldly place your items on the judging table.

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

At the date of publication, the following vendors will present at the OSBA Summer Conference:

♦ Betterbee
♦ BL Plastics
♦ Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
♦ Reid’s Apiary and BeeTique

Plant Resources (Continued from page 25)

od, such as white clover (Trifolium repens) or purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), can have enhanced value, especially if some blooming occurs during periods of relatively scarce resources. Finally, some plants tend to fluctuate greatly in the amount of flower production, depending upon what resources were expended on flowering and fruiting the previous year (e.g. many apple cultivars, Malus domestica), or on growing conditions preceding or during bloom. Many species are noted in apicultural literature as having nectar secretion that is sensitive to humidity. Some plants, such as lindens (Tilia spp.), can drop flowers dramatically if soil becomes too dry during the bloom period. If conditions that adversely affect its bloom are common in a given area, then a plant that might look good on paper might not work out well in practice. In some cases it might be practical to anticipate and address a problem, if the beekeeper becomes familiar with a plant’s assets and liabilities.

Plant Resources for Honey Bees, Parts 2 and 3

This article has attempted to list factors that are responsible for plant species being valued as bee forage. The following two articles will discuss wild plants and cultivated plants.
# 2013 Ohio State Beekeepers Association Officers and Contacts

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**Staff Appointments:**
- Terry Lieberman-Smith, Newsletter Editor

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**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 have to be a beekeeper or live in Ohio to join OSBA. Membership includes ongoing 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.
OSBA - Annual Summer Conference  
June 1st, 2013 - Cambridge, Ohio  
Prichard Laughlin Civic Center - 7033 Glen Highway

REGISTRATION
Online registration is also available at:  
www.OhioStateBeekeepers.com/sc

Name:  
Email:  
Address:  
City, State, Zip:  
Phone:  
Names of Additional Attendees:  

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<td>OSBA Guest (Spouse and children under 18 with paid OSBA Member)</td>
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Choose your choice of sandwich and salad for each lunch purchased:

1. Hoagie or Croissant and Potato or Macaroni or Pasta or Fruit  
2. Hoagie or Croissant and Potato or Macaroni or Pasta or Fruit  
3. Hoagie or Croissant and Potato or Macaroni or Pasta or Fruit  
4. Hoagie or Croissant and Potato or Macaroni or Pasta or Fruit  
5. Hoagie or Croissant and Potato or Macaroni or Pasta or Fruit

(If you need more than 5 lunches please specify your choices on the back)

Total Amount Due:

Send your registration and payment to:  (Checks should be made out to OSBA)

Tim Arheit / OSBA  
330 Sunderland Rd S  
Delphos, OH 45833

Questions may be sent to webmaster@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Note: Lunch is available by pre-purchase only.