OSBA Summer Conference 2014
Friday, June 6 5 p.m.—7 p.m.
Saturday, June 7 8 a.m.—4 p.m.
Hosted by the Butler County Beekeepers
Oxford OH

Registration Now Open
www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org/sc

REGISTRATION FEES
$5 Tour and Cookout on Friday 6/6 from 5-7 p.m.
$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)
$9.75 Lunch: Buffet of Assorted Sandwich Wraps: available by pre-Registration only

Friday:
Tour of Don Popp's Honey Farm and Cookout. Come visit a commercial facility and enjoy delicious food and beekeeper fellowship from 5-7 p.m. at 3134 Oxford Middletown Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013. Pre-registration required.

Saturday:
Doors open at 8:00 a.m.
Talawanda High School, 5301 University Park Blvd, Oxford, OH

Currently Schedule
Guest Speakers:

Jerry Hayes
Keith Delaplane
Zachary Huang
Dr. Chia-Hua Lin
Denise Ellsworth
Alex Zomchek
Jeannie Saum
Joseph Kovaleski
William Starrett

Workshop Topics Include:

♦ Varroa and Viruses
♦ Nutrition
♦ Nosema
♦ The Superorganism
♦ Benefits of Polyandrous Queens
♦ OSU Bee Lab Pollen Project
♦ Hands-On Bee Yard
♦ Propolis— Its benefits and how to use it
♦ And much more!
President's Letter

This winter has been one of the coldest I can remember, with record long periods of freezing temperatures and greater than average snowfall for much of Ohio. The sad story in Ohio and many of the surrounding states is that bee losses have been much higher than normal. Some have had better luck than others, but I have found no one so far that is exempt from the increased losses this year in Ohio. While bees are quite capable of surviving the cold weather we have had this year, it does put more stress on them and moisture, cluster size, varroa, other diseases, and the amount and location of food stores all become critical.

If you are a newer beekeeper who just lost their first hive, don't give up. I know it can be frustrating and outright depressing to find the hive you cared for so much last fall completely silent this spring. Replacing them may not be cheap, and not always pleasant to explain to your spouse, but even the best beekeepers will lose bees. Sometimes it's because of what you didn't do, sometimes it's what you did do, and sometimes it doesn't matter either way. But we'll learn from the experience and hopefully be better beekeepers this year.

This of course is one of the benefits of belonging to your local and state associations. In addition to learning from classes and workshops the association holds, sharing the knowledge each of us have gained by our own little experiments can be invaluable. It will be very interesting to hear what beekeepers did this winter to successfully overwinter their hives.

We strongly encourage beekeepers to get Ohio bees, typically in nucs with queens produced by beekeepers in Ohio. However the demand for bees even in a typical year far exceeds the supply. Thus package bees and queens from other states are necessary and will remain so until enough Ohio beekeepers learn to produce queens for sale. Keeping this in mind, my personal recommendation would be to start your hive from whatever package or nuc you can find but plan on requeening later in the year with Ohio queens when they are more readily available. (Be sure to check out the OSBA website for queen producers in Ohio under the Classifieds menu).

OSBA has supported education on queen rearing and nuc production and will continue to do so. However, increasing the quality of Ohio queens and nucs is a long term goal and commitment, one that must endure changing of OSBA's administration. To that end OSBA's board has voted to support the Buckeye Queen Producers Coop and their efforts to increase the quality of our breeding stock and quantity of queens produced in Ohio. While this group is only just beginning, they are building on both the stock of queen producers who have been raising queens for many years in addition to established breeding programs by Joe Latshaw, Sue Cobey, John Harbo, Adam Finklestein and Dr Greg Hunt. I look forward to great things from this group in years to come but know all too well from my own experience raising queens that it can be a slow tedious process.

While the losses this winter aren't a great way to start the year, I'm very excited about 2014. More than 1000 students have attended beginner beekeeping classes this year and OSBA has many great events and projects underway including legislation just proposed for a 'Save the Honey Bees' license plate, and online classes.

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## Ohio State Beekeepers Association
### 4th quarter 2013, Balance Sheet / Previous Year Comparison

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### Current Fixed Assets

1. Radio Shack, wireless lapel microphone Model 32-1257 (no SN)
2. Sharp, Multi-media projector. SN 812928676
3. Passport Fender, 300 Pro-Sound system SN CGPK09000396
4. Speaker Stands
5. Sony digital recorder (handheld)
6. 101-cup "Focus" coffee urn (Purchased 11/13 for $154)
7. 2012 Haulmark trailer (VIN 16HCB1215CH190247) Purchased 10/2013 for $2,000

1. Queen Bee Account ($7,200) held within checking account. Established in 2007 to teach members how to graft and raise queens and start stock improvement program. OSBA board set aside $1,500.00 per year for several years to support the program. Sale of queens in 2011 helped raise current $7,200 balance.
2. (5/3rd) Savings Account - State fair donations ($1,500 from Tri-County & $100 from Athens) used to purchase trailer 11/13
3. OSBA/JT Fund CD. Set aside from Queen Bee Account. 1/1/12 Carry-over was $5,923.60. $2,477.50 was used in 2012 for Reed Johnson research. $2,500 used for Reed Johnson research in 2013. CD (5/3 Bank) matures 3/29/14
5. Life Membership CD. Established 12/12 with $3,200.00 (5/3rd Bank). Funded with 2012 & 2013 life membership revenue. Portion to be allocated annually (if needed) to checking/general account. Matures 5/14/14
OSBA Conferences—Mark Your Calendars!

This year’s Oxford-based OSBA Summer Conference hosted by the Butler County Beekeepers starts the evening of June 6 with a tour of a Don Popp’s commercial facility along with a cookout.

The class sessions begin Saturday, June 7 at Talawanda High School in Oxford, Ohio. Our guest speakers include Jerry Hayes, Keith Delaplane, and Denise Ellsworth. You know Jerry Hayes through his monthly Q&A column in American Bee Journal. Keith Delaplane is a noted instructor, speaker, researcher, and author in many of our bee publications. Denise Ellsworth is the coordinator of the webinar series focused towards helping beekeepers, and a popular presenter at many bee and master gardener conferences.

We will also have hands on apiary breakout sessions, the opportunity for the Hands-On testing for the Apprentice level of the Master Beekeeper Program. Along with educational opportunities, we’ll have a few surprises along the way.

Although it seems a long way off, our November 1 conference at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City, Ohio, is going to be another absolutely amazing event that you will want to attend. Our current lineup of speakers includes Sue Cobey, Mike Palmer, and Denise Ellsworth.

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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 $200.

Chris Baker  
Kevin Browning  
Sonia DiFore  
Alice Fanning  
Kathleen Emptage  
Mike Jacquemin  
Tim Kaiser  
Lowell Kight  
Terry Lieberman-Smith  
David Scott Musselman  
Denzel St. Clair  
(Queen Right Colonies)

Mark Shepard  
Frank Soboleski  
Sue & Bill Valentine Cooper  
Joe Wolfe  
Jamie Walters

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Website www.waldobees.com
OSBA’S STATE FAIR PAVILION PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON BEES AND THEIR KEEPERS

David Crawford

A popular attraction with visitors at the Ohio State Fair is the Ohio State Beekeepers Association Pavilion. Prominently located near the north entrance to the fairgrounds, the expansive marquee space shows off one of the state’s most prized commodities and demonstrates how teamwork between OSBA and Ohio’s beekeeping organizations has resulted in one of the fair’s most highly regarded exhibits.

The OSBA-sponsored pavilion and honey show, in its third year at the 2014 state fair in Columbus, gives thousands of visitors a glimpse of how honeybees serve a valuable role in backyard gardens and commercial agriculture.

From honey-tasting opportunities and cooking demonstrations to “guided” tours of a working beehive (safely conducted just a few feet away from fair-goers inside a protective tent), the 2014 pavilion offers enjoyable and educational experiences for visitors of all ages. As you might expect, one of the more popular daily programs is a bee beard demonstration that attracts hundreds of spectators.

Using experienced OSBA beekeepers and conducted inside a screened tent, the demonstration shows the gentle traits of honeybees. All exhibits, demonstrations and activities inside the pavilion are free to fair attendees.

Nina Bagley, an OSBA member who leads the state fair pavilion project, says she is amazed at the number of people who visit the pavilion and then return the following year with friends and families. “Most people don’t have an ‘up close’ relationship with honeybees and they really enjoy seeing the live displays,” said Bagley. “We like to think that the OSBA, through these presentations and exhibits, is showing that honeybees are truly remarkable insects and deserve more attention to help them survive in nature,” she added.

While the honeybee population in the United States continues to decline, Bagley says during the state fair, the honeybee gains a growing list of supporters. “Every day I see people, particularly children, who come into the pavilion with a fear of bees and by the time they leave they have a much different viewpoint. Some actually want to take lessons to become a beekeeper and do their part to save the honeybee,” she said.

A large corps of OSBA volunteers and members of beekeeping organizations from around Ohio staff the pavilion throughout the fair and answer a multitude of visitors’ questions. The pavilion also features vendors selling honey and other hive-related products.

“We have the best volunteers, their enthusiasm for beekeeping is infectious,” Bagley said. “Visitors leave the pavilion with a greater understanding of how honeybees benefit agriculture and the threats bees face in our environment.”

The OSBA Fair Committee: from left: David Crawford, Zale Maxwell, Nina Bagley, John George

(Continued on page 6)
In addition to the more than 60 volunteers needed to staff the pavilion for the fair's run, OSBA has benefited from the generous financial support of the Tri-County Beekeeping Association. Also, in 2013, we received a donation for the state fair project from the Athens County Beekeeping Association. The American Beekeeping Federation also graciously provides its current Honey Queen or Princess to spend several days in the pavilion giving demonstrations, talking to visitors and posing for photos.

Members of the pavilion committee are Nina Bagley, David Crawford, John George, Zale Maxwell and Dwight Wells.

Adjacent to the pavilion inside the DiSalle Center is a display of honey and hive products from around the state. The display is part of an OSBA-sponsored contest to find the very best honey in Ohio. There are additional categories for other hive products such as comb honey, wax and gift baskets. Ribbons and cash awards are given to all entries that place. Honey competition and entry information is available at www.ohiostatefair.com. The honey and honey products category is within the Cooking, Baking & Decorating division.

The pavilion is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day of the fair, beginning on July 27. The fair concludes Aug. 3.
On March 12, HB 474 was introduced by the Ohio Legislative Service Commission. HB 474 is the one Ohio beekeepers have been waiting for, the one that will establish the beekeeping / honey bee license plate. Mike Dovilla (Berea) and Dorothy Pelanda (Marysville) are Joint Sponsors of our license plate, while five other representatives serve as Cosponsors.

On March 25, Representatives Dovilla and Pelanda provided public testimony before the House Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Homeland Security on behalf of our plate. Now it’s our turn. On Tuesday, April 1st, OSBA made a presentation at the proponent hearing before the same committee. This is our opportunity to explain why a beekeeping / honey license plate is a good cause to support, and touch on some of the programs that will benefit with the monies that are raised.

Pending our approval with the House and ensuing consent with the Senate, the bill will then be forwarded to the Governor for his signature. Once the bill is signed, our plate should be available for to the public within 90-days.

OSBA would like to thank OSBA member Paul Lane for all his efforts in guiding this project.
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.

**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.
OSBA on the Road

Members of your OSBA Executive Board spent hours answering questions and interacting with fellow beekeepers at the Tri-County and SWOBA conferences in March. Memberships, logowear and DVDs were literally flying off the tables. President Tim Arheit and his wife Dawn, VP Terry Lieberman-Smith, Treasurer David Crawford and his wife Marie chatted and interacted with the Tri-County attendees. Lucky New Member, Elizabeth Conley, won the raffle for the new hive.

At the SWOBA event, Master Beekeeper Chairperson Bill Starrett and VP Terry Lieberman-Smith helped update attendees about OSBA and the Master Beekeeper Program. New Member, Jeff Rosenbaum won the raffle for the hive at this event. Pictured above is Bill Starrett during a quiet moment at the OSBA table at SWOBA

Master Beekeeper Sessions at the OSBA Summer Conference

OSBA members who are enrolled in the Master Beekeeper Program (MBP) earn educational credit hours by attended pre-approved conference classes. MBP participants can enroll at a special microscopy hands-on session at the upcoming OSBA Summer Conference. Thanks to OSBA Director Alex Zomchek, Dr. Zachary Huang, from Michigan State University will lead these special lab sessions. Although there will be a $30 charge for the lab, we know these sessions will fill quickly due to the limited seating.

Dr. Huang is interested in the social organization of animals. Using honey bees as a model, he tries to dissect mechanisms of behavior by using physiological and molecular mechanisms. He also studies how external and internal parasites (Varroa destructor and Nosema ceranae, respectively) and pesticides affect honey bee physiology and behavior and how these events might relate to the recent crisis of CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder).

Each lab session will run for 2 hours and the students will investigating the honeybee, up close and personal, with microscopes and dissection instruments.
Ohio Beekeeping

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Honey Bee Losses and Toxic Corn Seed Dust

Doug Sponsler, Chia Lin, and Reed Johnson
The Ohio State University Honey Bee Research Lab

The Story
In the late 1990s, beekeepers in the corn-growing region of northern Italy began noticing unusually large numbers of dead or disabled bees in early spring, during the period of local corn planting (1). Not long after that, similar complaints arose in neighboring France (2). Suspicions quickly became focused on the seed-treatment compound known as Gaucho® (Bayer CropScience), a product used widely in corn and containing the neonicotinoid insecticide imidacloprid. The evidence implicating Gaucho®, however, was inconclusive, and the reports of spring bee-kills remained anecdotal and poorly documented (3). The heated public discourse that followed attracted some international attention, but the pattern of spring bee kills associated with corn planting continued to be largely restricted to France and Italy, and the role of Gaucho® in those events was never confirmed.

This situation changed dramatically in 2008. In the preceding years, there had been two important developments. First, Gaucho® had been largely displaced by two novel seed-treatment compounds: Poncho® (Bayer CropScience) and Cruiser® (Syngenta). These new compounds contained the neonicotinoid insecticides clothianidin (Poncho®) and thiamethoxam (Cruiser®), close relatives of imidacloprid (Gaucho®) with slightly higher toxicity to honey bees. Second, the western corn rootworm, a devastating North American pest of corn that had invaded eastern Europe in the 1990s, was marching westward at an alarming rate and threatening severe damage to the European corn economy (4). Poncho® and Cruiser® offered a chance to stop the spread, so these compounds were widely used at their highest approved dosage during the 2008 corn planting season (5).

Once planting began, reports of bee-kills started coming in at an unprecedented rate. When all were tallied, damage had been reported for a total of nearly 20,000 hives belonging to over 900 beekeepers, located mainly in Germany and Italy, but also in France and Slovenia (1, 6-8). Unlike the earlier reports in Italy and France, these cases were generally well-documented and formally investigated by scientists representing government agencies, pesticide companies, and independent research institutions (5, 8, 9). The incidents occurred in tight synchrony with corn planting, and residues of clothianidin and thiamethoxam were detected in a large proportion of the dead bees that were sampled and analyzed. All sides agreed that seed-treatment insecticides had played a significant role in the 2008 honey bee losses.

Since the events of 2008, a variety of actions have been taken, both by government regulators and seed-treatment manufacturers, to mitigate the exposure of honey bees to seed-treatment insecticides during corn planting. Nevertheless, honey bee losses associated with corn planting have continued to be reported by beekeepers in Europe and, more recently, by beekeepers in Canada and the United States (10-12). Among the latter are several beekeepers from right here in Ohio who saw losses during the 2012 corn planting season. Although the scale of these more recent incidents has been smaller than those of 2008, the pattern of losses and the circumstances surrounding them have been remarkably consistent, indicating that the now 15-year-old issue of honey bee mortality in connection with the planting of insecticide-treated corn remains unresolved.

Our Current Understanding
There is widespread agreement that the primary route by which honey bees are exposed to seed-treatment insecticides is foraging upon flowers that have become contaminated with insecticide-laden dust generated during pneumatic corn planting. During the planting process, seeds jostle against each other in the hopper, resulting in some abrasion of the pesticide coating. A portion of the resulting dust is then expelled through the exhaust port of the planter, which is typically directed up into the air. Depending on moisture and wind conditions, the insecticide-laden dust can disperse some distance from the planter and settle on blooming plants outside the planted field. During the 2008 incident in Germany, exposure is thought to have been exacerbated by unusual spring weather that resulted in corn being planted during the bloom of canola, a favorite resource of honey bees that is often grown in close proximity to corn fields. Furthermore, analysis of seed samples revealed that many batches of treated seed planted in 2008 had been poorly manufactured such that an inordinate amount of the seed-treatment compound readily detached from the surface of the seed producing extremely high levels of dust (9).

Arguably, the biggest mystery surrounding the issue of honey bee mortality during corn planting is why incidents occur sometimes but not all the time. Virtually all the corn planted in the U.S. and much of the corn planted elsewhere is treated with neonicotinoid insecticides, and yet major bee-kill events, while widespread, have been far from universal. What are the circumstances that lead to a bee-kill event during corn planting? What, if anything, can be done to avoid these circumstances?

Those are the questions that our lab is trying to answer in an ongoing study here in Ohio. Data from the first year of our study have led us to two preliminary conclusions (for more details see: http://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/CDRCfinalreport2013.pdf):

(Continued on page 23)
For the third consecutive year, a percentage of the membership dues from OSBA members is being used to fund critical honey bee research at Ohio State University.

With funding from OSBA, Rodney Richardson, a graduate student working with Reed Johnson at Ohio State University, will examine the immunological effects of neonicotinoid insecticide exposure that research colonies receive during corn planting. As most beekeepers are aware, several colony die-offs have been reported in areas of spring corn planting.

"Our membership and beekeepers throughout the Midwest, particularly those in corn-growing areas, could potentially benefit from the results of this study," said Tim Arheit, president of OSBA. "Facilitating research that improves our knowledge of honey bees and a better understanding of the challenging environment in which they live is a priority for OSBA."

Reed Johnson, researcher and assistant professor at Ohio State, says the support of OSBA is gratifying. "OSBA and its members have been very helpful to me in my first two years at Ohio State," said Johnson. "I'm appreciative of the research funding, and also the willingness of the members to provide field data and other forms of assistance."

Arheit says the bulk of the OSBA-funding to support honey bee research at Ohio State is derived from membership dues. "During the past several years we have provided more than $7,500 for OSU research," Arheit added. "We're very proud of this and it's something for which each and every OSBA member can take credit."
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 discounted beekeeping magazine subscription.
- 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.

Dana Stahlman announced the sale this year of OHIO BUCKEYE BELLE QUEENS.

Ohio Buckeye Belle Queens are available from the following local beekeepers:

**Miami County/ Western OH Region**
Tony Rimkus
4610 State Route 201
Tipp City, OH 45371
937.667.1420
trimkus@frontier.com

**Warren County/ Southwest OH**
Gary Hardwick
Beeville Apiaries & Honey
498 Lake Front Dr.
Lebanon, OH 45036
513.225.6847
ghardwic@gmail.com

**Franklin & Fairfield Counties/Central OH**
Kimberly & Shawn
Honey Valley Apiaries
5235 Knight Street
Groveport, OH 43125
614.492.0229
honeyvalleyapiaries@juno.com

**Zanesville (Muskingum County)/ Southeastern OH**
Tony Coury
Y-City Apiaries
210 W. Willow Dr.
Zanesville, OH 43701
ycitybz2011@gmail.com

**Northern Ohio (Sandusky County)**
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southridgeapiary@yahoo.com

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**Ohio Beekeeping**

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or call 330.23.5525
The class is limited to 30 participants costs of $100 per person

**The Ohio State University**

**Bee Lab Webinar Series 2014**

Join us for our free monthly beekeeping webinars. Each webinar begins at 9AM (Eastern).

**March 19: Phenology for Beekeepers**
Denise Ellisworth, The Ohio State University
Extension/Entomology

**April 16: Making Colony Splits - An Inexact Procedure**
Jim Tew, Extension Bee Specialist, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service

**May 21: 10 Rules of Modern Beekeeping**
Kim Flottum, Author and Editor of Bee Culture Magazine

**June 18: Hive Monitoring: Measuring Primary and Secondary Pests of Your Hive**
Alex Zornich, Master Beekeeping Instructor

**July 16: Chemistry of Honey**
Thom Janini, Associate Professor, The Ohio State University

**August 20: Bee Foraging in Rural Areas During Corn Planting**
Reed Johnson, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University

**September 17: Winter Preparation**
Barb Bloetscher, State Apiarist, The Ohio Department of Agriculture

All webinars are free, and registration is not required. Webinars run from 9:00AM to 10:00AM (Eastern). Access the live or recorded session on your computer, smart phone or iPAD. We’ll send out reminders and log-in instructions prior to each session.

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**Short Course & Conference**

**EAS 2014 Kentucky**

July 28-August 1, 2014
Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY

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**MEDINA COUNTY BEEKEEPERS**

**Queen Rearing Workshop**

with Jennifer Berry

Workshop is limited to the first 75 people

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June 13, 15, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday, 8:00 AM West Liberty Street, Medina, OH - 6:30 PM - Registrations Open April 1

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**Tuscarawas County Beekeepers Association**

**Queen Rearing Class**

For registration and further information contact:
Ray Wirt: geologist@frognet.net
or call 330.23.5525
The class is limited to 30 participants costs of $100 per person
Association Corner

From Alex Zomchek and Karri Bruskotter—Miami Valley Region:

The Butler Country Beekeepers Association (BCBA) have a few projects in the works for the 2014 Beekeeping year. We are building a large, solar wax melter to complement the electrified extractor and portable extracting tank from past years. The goal here is to reduce barriers for new and/or small beekeepers that need these expensive components to honey harvesting.

The BCBA will also be participating in several fund raisers to purchase a projection microscope to allow group participation in queen grafting and other insemination workshops.

We are busy planning for the OSBA Summer meeting which we are hosting in Oxford, OH on Friday evening, June 6th and Saturday the 7th. On the agenda is a visit to a commercial bee operation (complete with an evening barbeque); touring the Langstroth Cottage (where the invention of the modern beehive took place); together with new, interesting, and informative breakout sessions. There will be a twist on the standard "corn hole toss game" which converts to "bee tossing".

There will also be "honey bee races" - yep, honey bee races. Come join us this summer!

From Joseph Kovaleski and Jason Bosler—Crossroads Region:

Area beekeepers were able to attend their first large beekeeping event in Ohio as they attended the Tri-County Workshop in Wooster. Tri-County Beekeepers Association, Inc. held their 36th annual workshop on February 28th and March 1st, 2014 with close to 900 beekeepers in attendance. David Burns, an EAS Master Beekeeper from Illinois, was the keynote speaker. There were 16 regular classroom sessions as well as all day beginner sessions conducted by members of Central Ohio Beekeepers Association. Day-long children's sessions were conducted by members of Lorain County Beekeepers Association.

Several area associations had guest speakers for their March Meetings. Jason Bosler, Crossroads Region Representative, spoke at the Harrison County Beekeepers meeting on the story of his business venture – Getting Started: Hobby to Business. Joe Kovaleski, Crossroads Region Director and president of the Buckeye Queen Producers Cooperative, spoke at the Tuscarawas County Beekeepers meeting on Honeybee Diseases and Pests.

Tuscarawas County Beekeepers Association will be sponsoring a Queen Rearing class on May 31, 2014, in Wilmot, Ohio. For registration info, email Ray Wirt at geologist@frognet.net.

And welcome to a new association: Greater Mahoning Valley Beekeepers Club with Paula Hendricks-Richards as the contact person!

With warm weather approaching, beekeepers are encouraged to check their colonies for adequate food stores and feed sugar patties to supplement if necessary for insurance during the cold spells.

From Dwight Wilson—Maumee Valley

The beekeepers in north west Ohio are anxious for spring...especially after many of our club members traveled to Wooster for the beekeepers event. Unfortunately, most of our members have had a pretty devastating loss of hives over the winter.

Our January meeting was canceled due to the bad weather, but we were quite delighted to have "the ever entertaining" Jim Tew at our February meeting. Everyone went home with a smile on their face.

Tim Arheit will be our March speaker, and will be talking to us about spring management and feeding.

We will be discussing the planning of several summer activities at our April meeting and will be working on how to bring bees thru harsh winters, in case we are faced with another next year.

From Dwight Wells—Top of Ohio

Dr Larry Connor will once again be in West Central Ohio giving a 3 day queen rearing class near Belle Center. He will be speaking in the Urbana area on May 14. Watch for details on WCOBA’s website. Randy Oliver will be speaking in the Urbana area on Aug 19. Watch for details on the WCOBA website.

Miami Valley Beekeepers will start up their well-attended Hive Fun-days In April. Club members learn seasonal hands-on techniques at the club’s apiary. OSBA Vice President, Terry Lieberman-Smith was guest speaker in March with the topic of Build Your Own Equipment. Guest speakers this year include Dana Stahlin, Brad Bergelund, and Alex Zomchek.

(Continued on page 18)
**Funding for OSU Honey Bee Research**

Honeybee research in Ohio received a financial boost with a donation by OSBA to further studies at The Ohio State University Beelab.

**OSBA Phone Number**

Yes! OSBA now has an official phone number. 567-703-OSBA (6722). If we’re not near the phone, leave a message and one of our officers will call you back.

**Beekeeper Education**

Visit us on the web. Videos, Best Management Practices, Newsletters, Classifieds, Recipes….and much more

www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org
www.facebook.com

**Club Education**

In 2013 OSBA gave each association their own DVD copy for FREE! That’s right, *every bee-keeping association* in the state of Ohio has its own “A Web-Based Introductory Bee-keeping Training Program” DVD for their association library

**OSBA Educational Conferences**

Learn more and have fun! Reserve June 6/7 for the OSBA Summer Conference in Oxford, and November 1st for the Fall Conference in Plain City.

**Interaction-Tri-County and SWOBA**

Your Executive Board staffed the OSBA tables at the Tri-County and SWOBA Conferences answering questions and listening to your concerns
in the HIVE

4-H
We’re working to put funding together to help promote our next generation of beekeepers

Club Promotion
Promote your meetings and events, for free, on the OSBA website. Go to www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/events/community/add/
It’s that simple!

Master Beekeeper Program
Self-paced three tiered education program. Get out of your comfort zone, learn new skills, and then pass along the love of bees.

Club Development
Do you lack a club in your area? OSBA is compiling a “How to Start a New Association Guide” and it will be available next year. Contact your OSBA Director or Regional Representative.

Webinars/Podcasts
Specific programming reaching into the comfort of your own home, on your own schedule.

Education Committee
Designing classes available regionally that you have requested.
**Association Corner (Continued from page 15)**

**From Richard Manley and Tracy Alarcon—Western Reserve**

Medina Beekeepers is hosting a Queen Rearing Class in June with Jennifer Berry (see ad in this newsletter).

**Summit County Beekeepers** and Lorain County Beekeepers have finished up their Beginner Beekeeper classes.

Richard Manley gave a presentation at The Environmental Bootcamp entitled The Importance of Honeybees.

**From Tom Rathbun—Erie Basin**

On Tuesday's March 4, 18, and April 1st, from 6:00pm-7:00pm **Richland Area Beekeepers Association** hosted a Basic Bee Keeping class at the Richland County Health Dept. 555 Lexington Ave, Mansfield, Ohio. Also included in the registration fee is a hive tool, bee veil, basic beekeeping book and a one year membership to the Richland Area Beekeepers Assoc. The class covers identification and the use of beekeeping equipment and tools, terminology of beekeeping, bee biology and hands on hive and frame assembly. Also they will be hosting a Field day on Saturday May 10, 2014 from 12:00pm-4:00pm located at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield Ohio. Other news with this club is that they are discussing the possibility of moving (swarming) to another building within the Mansfield area, that they have pretty much out grew their current meeting spot, which is good news of their growing club membership.

On Monday March 3rd, **Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association** had their annual Pancake, Sausage and Pot luck dinner which was attended by nearly 50 members. After the dinner Kim Flottum was the Guest Speaker, His topics were very well received by the members and a lot of questions were answered and discussed.

On Saturday March 29 from 12:00pm-5:00pm and on Saturday April 5th from 12:00pm-5:00pm the club hosted their annual Beginners Beekeeping classes. The classes were held at 4865 County Road 175 Clyde, Ohio. The cost of the two sessions was $45.00 which included all handouts and a beginners beekeeping book, along with a one year membership to the Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Assoc. The club is also taking orders for 3# packages of bees and Five frame Nucs again this year.

A note from Tom: Something I have been working on for over a year, is making contact with the area County Commissioners within the Erie Basin region, I’ve had several meeting with the Sandusky County Commissioners. Sandusky County has been without a Honeybee Inspector for over 10 years, and I’m pleased to announce that they have currently budget funds for a bee inspector for the year 2014, and they are currently talking with a local beekeeper to arrange this new adventure for Sandusky County. I would like to thank Barb Bloetscher and Cindy McGinnis of the Ohio State Apiary Department for their help on all the stats for Sandusky County, I’ve found you need to have all your answers with you when you are talking with the Commissioners. I will be contacting Seneca, and Ottawa Counties next.

**From Andrea Littler—Buckeye Hills**

The **Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers Association** ended the year on a positive note. Accomplishments for 2013 included 10th annual Honey Bee Expo in February, manning informational booths for West Virginia’s 150th birthday celebration at City Park in Parkersburg, and the I-77 tourist information center in Williamstown, WV. The club also spent two days at the West Virginia Honey Festival, also at Parkersburg City Park, where information was passed out, an observation hive displayed, and questions were answered. Members also visited Marietta College, where the college’s dining facility prepared foods using locally produced honey. Students had the opportunity to compare both pure unrefined honey against store bought honey. MOVBA held a beginner’s class in October.

The end of the year was devoted to organizing the January 18th 2014 Honey Bee Expo. Despite a Friday evening snow shower and a drop in temperature, around 270 guests, vendors, and speakers from 4 states attended the event. As a club, we thank those who attended, and hope those unable to attend, can join us next year.

The **Athens County Area Beekeepers Association** ACABA hosted its annual BeeKeeping Class March 22 & 29, from 9am to 1pm. $50. Includes the course book, a one-year membership to ACABA, and (drum roll please!) a chance to win a complete BeeKeeping Starter Kit! A new, medium hive with 3 supers plus frames, a smoker, head veil, and hive tool!

**From Susan Valentine-Cooper and Kim Flippen—Heart of Ohio**

The beekeeping classes of **Central Ohio Beekeepers** and **East Central Ohio Beekeepers** total 250 students. **Knox County Beekeepers** and **Scioto Valley Beekeepers** students totaled 70. That’s a lot of new beekeepers in our region.
Telling the Bees

Ron Hoopes

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 passed away.

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 can 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.
Queen Excluders

Roy Hendrickson

When used correctly, the queen excluder is an indispensable management tool!

Queen excluders have a multitude of uses, but their primary function is to maintain the separation between the broodnest and honey supers. This controlled separation allows for considerable variation in broodnest management and supering, and it significantly reduces the time and effort involved in crop removal. The need for excluders depends on a variety of circumstances, including but not limited to, the size of the broodnest, spring management strategy, and the makeup of the local honey flow. Most important is the local honey flow. Areas that feature a long steady flow largely eliminate the need for excluders. The flow itself tends to keep the queen down where she belongs. Colonies situated in areas with light or intermittent honey flows generally benefit from excluder use. The supers remain honey supers; the excluder eliminates the issue of brood in the supers at crop removal. Excluder use also allows for considerable variation in broodnest size. Large broodnest area is not always desirable. Excluders make it possible to size the broodnest to the existing conditions.

The only way to determine whether excluders are beneficial or detrimental is to experiment with them under your local conditions. Try different broodnest sizes and management strategies, with and without excluders. Keep the playing field level; do all the experiments in the same yard and keep written records. The following year repeat and refine the most successful experiments. Don’t be swayed by the local nay-sayers. Beekeepers tend to be stubborn and set in their ways— the queen excluder debate is a classic example. Ignore all that, experiment and decide for yourself.

From an operational standpoint the general rule of thumb is, early in the season most colonies will not voluntarily work through an excluder unless forced to. This is particularly true in colonies that occupy large broodnest. (Two or more hive-bodies) Here the excluder often acts as a barrier, and most colonies will attempt to live below that barrier, hence the term honey excluder.

Successful queen excluder use is primarily dependent on proper brood nest management. In order for excluders to work effectively, colonies need to be in tip-top condition, full of bees, brood, and honey— especially bees and brood. Then, once the main honey flow starts, incoming nectar passes through the brood nest and directly into the supers. The brood nest can’t become plugged with nectar and honey because it’s already jammed full. To avoid excluder issues, double hive-body colonies that won’t reach full strength in time for the main flow should be reduced to singles or one and a half story colonies. Small brood nest colonies seem to recognize that they can’t live below the excluder due to the lack of space, so they tend to move into the supers with minimal difficulty. In addition, these colonies are generally more efficient honey producers than large brood nest colonies. Any excess brood that is removed during broodnest reduction can be used to boost weak colonies, to make up splits, or allowed to emerge above the excluder on the original colony.

Timely supering is the second essential for successful excluder use. Early supering with drawn comb provides both storage for early incoming nectar, and a parking or resting space for the masses of idle bees with little to do in the absence of a flow. This in turn helps to alleviate broodnest congestion, and as a result the threat of swarming is dramatically reduced. Once the flow begins, the idle bees get to work, and the supers begin to fill. From this point on, add supers as need dictates.

Never place full boxes of foundation directly above a queen excluder. Foundation offers little incentive to draw bees up, and in many instances it serves to amplify the barrier effect. Once the flow starts, the broodnest immediately fills with nectar, and swarm preparations are initiated. The easiest solution is to bait, or place two or three drawn combs into the center of each box of foundation. If you’re starting from scratch, omit the excluder until you have a couple supers of drawn comb. If the flow is still ongoing, make sure the queen is down in the broodnest, add the excluder, and use the new comb to bait additional foundation. At flows end, allow any brood above the excluder to emerge before extracting. There are several variations to this theme, but the idea is to end up with the entire surplus crop above the excluder. Just remember, foundation is a temporary impediment to both honey production and swarm control. Once you gain an adequate amount of drawn super comb, life in the bee yard becomes a whole lot easier.
Highway Planting for Pollinators

Ohio has suffered major honey bee losses due to many factors including pests, poor nutrition and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Based on Ohio beekeepers’ reports and the annual survey conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership (beeinformed.org) 2011-2012 marks the fifth consecutive year that winter losses of managed honey bee (Apis mellifera) colonies in the USA have averaged 30%. Each year, Ohio beekeepers as well as those in other states report losing 30-70% of their hives.

Factors linked with decline include diseases and arthropod pests, especially the varroa mite that weakens colonies and vectors several serious viral diseases not only to the honey bee but native bee species as well. Honey bees are not the only pollinators suffering decline. The lesser long-nosed bats (Leptonycteris curasaoae), rufous hummingbirds (Selasphorus rufus), western white-winged doves (Zenaida asiatica mearnsis), and monarch butterflies (Danaus plexippus) are all examples of migratory pollinators who are experiencing population declines. Native bumble bee populations, including the endangered rusty-patched bumble bee (Bombus affinis) which is on the brink of extinction, have declined in the last decade.

As urban areas encroach further into rural areas and modern farming practices leave little unmanaged boundaries around fields, these pollinators are losing habitat in which to build nests (both ground and void nesting species) and season-long forage which provides nectar for energy demands and pollen to feed to developing larvae.

The plants listed below are low growing and mostly self sustaining, requiring minimal maintenance once established. A few can be harvested as a value added product to fund the program. They can be planted in waste areas, where gas lines have been placed underground, under electric lines and in highway areas, where applicable. If several are planted within a 3 mile radius, they can provide season long nectar/pollen sources as well as habitat in otherwise relatively sterile environments. Any efforts taken to provide for pollinators will help the survival of these important pollinators.

**Plants Beneficial to Native and European Honey Bee**

*Ajuga reptans* (bronze bugle) ground cover  
*Asclepias spp* (any milkweed)  
*Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed) wet places  
*Aster spp.*  
*Brassica napus canola*  
*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* (oxeye daisy)  
*Coreopsis spp.* (many coreopsis- annual but self seeding)  
*Crocus vernus crocus*  
*Galium* (sweet woodruff) shade  
*Iberis semipervirens* (candytuft) shade  
*Lavendula augustifolia* (lavender)  
*Liatris pycnostachya* (gazing star or gayfeather)  
*Lotus corniculatus* (bird’s-foot trefoil)  
*Medicago sativa* (alfalfa)  
*Melilotus alba* (white sweet clover)  
*Melilotus officinalis* (yellow sweet clover)  
*Nepeta glechoma* (ground ivy) weed in horticultural beds  
*Penstemon digitalis* (*Husker’s Red’ Beard Tongue*)  
*Potentilla recta* (sulphur cinquefoil) wet places  
*Sedum spp* (any species) mostly ground covers for hot dry locations  
*Solidago rigida* (stiff goldenrod- any goldenrods are great)  
*Stachys byzantina* (lambs ears) dry soil  
*Taraxicum officinale* (dandelion)  
*Trifolium repens* (white Dutch clover)  
*Trifolium* (red clover)  
*Trifolium hybridum* (hybrid clover)  
*Trifolium campestrae* (low hop trefoil)  
*Typha latifolia* (cat-tail)  
*Verbascum blattaria* (moth mullein) poor, dry soil  
*Vicia cracca* (common vetch)  
*Vicia villosa* (hairy vetch)  
*Vicia sativa* (spring vetch)  
*Trifolium procumbens* (hop clover)  
*Trifolium pretense* (red clover)  
*Thymus spp.* (any thyme)  
** most of these plants once seeded or planted are perennials and self sustaining. All are excellent sources of nectar and/or pollen for bees and other pollinators. **

!! These forage plants may attract animals. Plant where a fence or barrier will keep animals off the road.

**Resources**

*Bee Plant Fact Sheets*


Native Landscaping for Birds, Bees, Butterflies, and Other Wildlife, W-13-02 (pdf) [http://ohioline.osu.edu/w-fact/0013.html](http://ohioline.osu.edu/w-fact/0013.html)


Fact Sheet: Answers to 10 questions that growers frequently ask beekeepers [http://www.honeybeelab.com/wiki/Fact_Sheet:Answers_to_10_questions_that_growers_frequently_ask_beekeepers](http://www.honeybeelab.com/wiki/Fact_Sheet:Answers_to_10_questions_that_growers_frequently_ask_beekeepers)

Bee Pollination of Crops in Ohio, Bulletin 559 [http://ohioline.osu.edu/b559/559_2.html](http://ohioline.osu.edu/b559/559_2.html)

What is it About Beekeeping? Part I

Dr. James Tew

The end has always been at hand
I’ve done this bee thing now for a long time. Oddly, it doesn’t feel like a long time, but I look at old photos and old articles and must admit that a lot time has passed. This is my 45th year of co-existing with bees. I have never really kept them. With that much bee mileage under my belt, I am at the point of vacillating between being a wise old beekeeping sage and a boring old guy who lives in the past. As have all other old beekeepers, I have seen a lot come and go.

I can factually tell you that for every one of my bee years, beekeeping has been in one crisis mode or another. The end of our bee world has always seemingly been just around the next disaster corner. Organophosphate insecticides, Chinese honey imports, Sevin XLR, Killer Bees, Pencap-M, Tracheal mites, Varroa mites, small hive beetles, CCD and now neonicotinoids have been some of our bee boogeymen. Mind you, I am not saying that these events were not problems – in fact some were huge problems – but I am saying that they have not been the end of our bee world.

The worst has brought out the best
One of the worst times in beekeeping has evolved into the best time – ever – in beekeeping. Varroa invaded our U.S. industry in the mid-1980s, and it truly looked like they would destroy our bee world. Indeed, they have profoundly restructured it, but beekeepers and their bees (and their miles) are still here. Early in the varroa years, I have a vivid memory of attending an American Beekeeping Federation meeting somewhere in the west. During an open discussion, a commercial beekeeper stood to announce that, due to the new Varroa mite, he had lost his entire family operation and was bankrupt. He publicly cried as he told the audience that he loved beekeeping but was financially and emotionally destroyed and this was his goodbye. I must say that as a young man at that moment, I wondered if I had a future in this bee thing.

For the next 35 years, we fought the Varroa fight right up to the time when Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) invaded the media. CCD previously had names like: Autumnal Collapse, Spring Dwindling and Disappearing Disease. Renaming it Colony Collapse Disorder appeared to make this episode something really different from all the earlier episodes beekeeping had experienced since the late 1800s. Though I had no earthly idea what caused any of these die-off events, I didn’t feel that this episode would be beekeeping’s swan song. From the literature, we know that beekeeping has survived events like this before. When compared to the disastrous Varroa invasion, this issue seemed manageable.

In the 1800s in regards to an earlier mysterious bee die off, A.I. Root wrote, “And comes the spring, the mania passes.” It did. Today, CCD is rarely mentioned, but what I profoundly miscalculated about this event was the unimaginable effects digital age media would have on the episode. All previous die-offs had been beekeeping issues that were contained in our small bee industry, but this most recent event went internationally viral. I had never seen anything like it. Everywhere and in every media format, the fate of bees was on the forefront. Even a quote credited to Einstein that stated “no bees would result in no pollination and mankind would die within four years” surfaced. Apparently he did not say it, but it surely met our needs. Even Einstein was involved in this thing. In my entire career, I had never seen anything like this incident. It was truly stunning. In large part, CCD caused meaningful funding to begin to flow. Funding is everything.

How unexpected it is to write that, from a beekeeper standpoint, this serendipitous series of events has resulted in the best time in U.S. beekeeping – ever. Our industry has never had an uptick like this one. Bee equipment sales are off the charts. Package bees and queens supplies sell out

Buckeye Queen Producers Cooperative is promoting Ohio raised queens that are well suited to local climate and ecology

These queens are all raised in Ohio by a group of Ohio queen producers. The queens are all open mated here in Ohio with survivor stock colonies. Inseminated Breeder Queens are from the genetic lines of Sue Cobey, Adam Finklestein, John Harbo, Joe Latshaw, and Dr. Greg Hunt at Purdue, as well as some locally inseminated queens and survivor stock. The colonies with queens raised from the Purdue stock are being dubbed as ankle biters by Dr. Hunt, due to a hygienic trait where the bees are taking a bite out of the mites, usually their leg, which causes death of the mite. This trait is presenting itself in over 70 percent of fallen mites being chewed. The Buckeye Queen Producers group is a member of the Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Cooperative (Indiana-Ohio-West Virginia) and has received substantial financial support from the Ohio State Beekeepers Association.

For additional information go our website at www.ohioqueens.org

(Continued on page 26)
Honeybee Losses (Continued from page 11)

1. Chemical analysis of pollen collected from our research colonies during the 2013 corn planting season revealed the pervasive presence of seed-treatment neonicotinoids, albeit at low concentrations. This is somewhat unsettling because there were no local reports, to our knowledge, of spring bee-kills in Ohio last year, indicating that bees may be exposed to background levels of neonicotinoids every spring, even when no acute effects are observed. Whether these background levels are high enough to cause sublethal effects is debatable, and our study was not designed to measure such effects.

2. When we separated our pollen by floral source prior to pesticide analysis, we found that the pollen bees collect during spring corn planting can be extremely variable in the concentration of neonicotinoids. This is a subtle but important insight. Bees do not forage on “average” pollen--they forage on some combination of contaminated and uncontrolled pollen. Thus, the low background levels we observed in the bulk pollen we analyzed represent a mixture that includes both highly contaminated and minimally contaminated pollen. Whether or not a bee-kill occurs on any given day may, therefore, be largely dependent on whether your hive happens to forage heavily on a patch of flowers that received a large amount of contamination, such as dandelions growing downwind from a newly planted field.

What You Can Do
Based on our current understanding, there does not seem to be anything that you as a beekeeper can do to guarantee the safety of your hives this spring. The likelihood of having a major bee-kill is probably low, but it is dependent on factors outside your control, such as the foraging decisions of your bees, the availability of safe foraging habitat in your area, and the weather conditions at the time of corn planting.

What you can do, though, is make careful observations of your hives during the period of local corn planting. Be aware of planting activity in your area and if you notice large numbers of dead or dying bees during planting contact us immediately at one of the email addresses below.

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Dr. Chia Lin
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This work was funded by the Pollinator Partnership’s ‘Corn Dust Research Consortium’, the United States Environmental Protections Agency’s RARE program and state and federal support of The Ohio State University’s Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC).

References
9. A. Nikolakis et al., An effective risk management approach to prevent bee damage due to the emission of abraded seed treatment particles during sowing of seeds treated with bee toxic insecticides, Julius-Kühn-Archiv, S. 132 (2010).
Trip to Georgia (Part 1)

Having the opportunity to work in a commercial beeyard or at least be around one can be somewhat difficult to pull off. In the fall of 2013, Dana Stahlman informed me that he would be traveling to Georgia to see his friend, Billy Engle, and asked if I wanted to come like to come along. Dana explained that Billy Engle was a commercial beekeeper and ran approximately 650 hives. In the world of commercial beekeepers I am sure that a 650 hive operation is small, but, compared to what I am doing he is huge.

In December, Dana informed me that he would be making his first trip to Georgia in January. On Monday, January 13th at 6:00 a.m. with the bees (16 colonies) loaded on a trailer we left London Ohio and headed for Georgia. We arrived in “The Rock” Georgia around 4:30 p.m. The plan was to visit and then get some rest as we would be leaving for southern Georgia early in the morning. At 6:00 a.m. the trip started for southern Georgia, the 85-mile trip to Rochelle Ga. took a good 2-hours as we had to travel back roads with no major interstate routes.

After stopping for breakfast, we arrived in the Rochelle Ga. area around 9:00 a.m. and met up with Billy Engle and partner Glen. They had to check-out their soon-to-be living quarters (small campers) to ensure that everything was working and ready for the upcoming busy bee season. We then went to the bee-yard where we would leave our bees. Upon arriving, the first thing I noticed was the large open area with several pallets each having 4 colonies of bees. What appeared to be 20-25 hives was actually 80+ hives and they were definitely busy coming and going.

We spent the next few hours unloading and arranging where exactly we wanted our bees to sit. After getting everything organized we headed to the nearest convenient store to purchase sugar to feed our bees. We returned with 25lbs. of sugar and the first thing we saw—my hive being robbed out by the 80+ hives sitting 100 feet away. My hive was somewhat weak, but had several frames of stored honey. It was going to have its hands full dealing with these Georgia bees. Everything this far south is at least 6-8 weeks ahead of us in Ohio. Immediately, we took measures to close off the hive and move it a short distance. By the time we finished preparing sugar syrup and feeding, things had calmed down considerably.

We finished with our hives and headed to meet up with Billy and Glenn. When we arrived at their holding yard, there was no doubt that Billy’s suggestion to have veil, jacket and gloves on was a necessity. Bees were everywhere and these commercial guys were feeding all at once. Every hive was opened, checked for good numbers, and those that are weak were immediately dealt with. Dana opened up one hive so that I could get a picture; right here is where I first noticed the difference between southern bees and northern bees this time of the year. These hives were overflowing with bees; the hive looked like what we would want on our spring flow in April and May. Each pallet contains four hives with the pallet as the bottom board. The hives were held in place with “W” clips and each colony had two deeps and a migratory lid. I noticed that inner covers are not used and there is not one set way the bees are fed. Some colonies had jar feeders on top of the hive, some had frame feeders, and some had hivetop feeders. Each hive was fed sugar syrup, Honey B Healthy and medication to fight against Nosema Ceranae.

(Continued on Page 25)
Feeding all these hives turns out not to be that difficult when using a 300+ gallon container with a gasoline style hose connection. Glenn moved along quickly from one hive to the next. Asking “how much syrup each hive will get” is answered “an 8-count” which means each hive top feeder they count to 8 and then move on. Jars were filled along with the frame feeders; the whole process only takes 10-15 minutes for the entire yard. While Glenn feeds, Billy comes along and accesses each colony. If the colony looks good and strong the lid is slid on and he moves to the next. If the colony looks weak, with only a few frames of bees, the queen is found, killed, and the hive is then placed onto a strong hive and the two are combined. Billy explains that they do not have time nursing along slow queens. If the queen is not producing eggs and building up at a rate they expect, she is found and removed. After feeding all the bees in this yard we are off to the next. The same process is followed in each yard.

After a long day of traveling, setting up our apiary and getting to help a little in a commercial operation, we make our way back to “The Rock” Georgia. Arriving around 4 p.m. Billy then shows us his honey room and barn where boxes, frames and other equipment are assembled. It looks as though their operation has a lot of the modern equipment and not much different than what we may have, just on a larger scale and of course commercial grade. The average hobbyist is not going to be able to afford this equipment.

Due to the fact that we finished our work early in the day, Dana and I decide to head for Ohio. Seemed like a great idea originally, as we or at least I was still pumped up after getting to spend the day working with and around bees this early in the year. But, after a few hours in the car the trip home became tough. We arrived back in London Ohio around 4:15 a.m. Wednesday morning. Only to remember I still had to drive some 80 or so miles east back to Zanesville.

My trip to Georgia though fast was very rewarding and educational. I learned that commercial beekeeping is hard work and has long hours; I look forward though to my return trip in March to see the buildup of our bees and the chance to help shake and feed bees.
every year. Classes and meetings are full. Long vacant university apicultural positions have been filled. Graduate students abound. There are no current threats of USDA bee labs closing and all of these events have been supported by an information delivery system that is literally unbelievable in its availability and scope. In all forms, beekeeping information and resources are everywhere. As difficult as it currently is to keep bees alive, this is the best time to be in beekeeping.

**Beekeeping innovation and evolution**

Varroa and their related virus pathogens have forced the beekeeping industry to evolve. Nearly everything has changed. Bee stocks are not as vigorous as they once were. Queens do not live as long. Expensive packages and queens are produced by huge operations and not by mom/pop beekeepers. Bee catalogs and bee magazines are glitzy and colorful.

The diversity of beekeeping supplies is at an all-time high and innovation is everywhere. Plastic beekeeping equipment, electronic devices and restructured management schemes are changing the look and function of general beekeeping. The critical need for pollination is lost on no one, and local honey is in high demand.

Yet our national bee herd is at about 50% of what it was in the late 1950’s. We now accept winter kill numbers that would have been inconceivable three decades ago. Replacement costs for bees are truly expensive. I can remember paying around one dollar for a caged, mated queen and $20.00 for 3-pound package. In the spring, swarms were everywhere, but not now.

Modern beekeeping is adapting to all of this. Specialized beekeepers make springtime trips to the South to get loads of package bees. The U.S. Postal system has little value for bee shipping any more. Innovative beekeepers, in all climates, are learning to winter nucs in order to provide new bees or replacement bees for customers. Our apiaries and our personal colony numbers are significantly reduced. Few beekeepers today keep sixty colonies in a single apiary, but they dote on the colonies they do keep.

And beekeepers have evolved. No longer is a farming life connection required. Restrictive beekeeping ordinances have been relaxed in many areas. Some of today’s beekeepers freely keep bees on rooftops and balconies in populated areas. While we still have a lot of old guys keeping bees, younger people (of both sexes) have come to our craft in significant numbers, and these new people are clever types with eclectic backgrounds in their other lives. In general, young people bring innovation and freshness in everything – not just beekeeping. They have really helped beekeeping evolve.

**Figure 1 1910 Dadant Catalog (4 1/2” x 6”)**

**Figure 2 Iowa Apiary (1944)**

Next Quarter: Part II
Budget Friendly Beekeeping—Staying Ahead of the Curve

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Not until it is absolutely, positively, unreclaimable (or not worth the time to re-vamp). That is the motto of the thrifty beekeepers.

What do I mean? Let’s take frames. In a bulk order they may cost me less than $1. It takes me about 20 minutes to put together a whole box of frames using a homemade jig. That’s about 2 minutes per frame. It then gets a sheet of wax…about another $1. So if I have a whole box of moth-eaten frames, it will take me much longer than 20 minutes to scrape, cut off the wires to remove the cruddy comb, and then fix anything wrong with the frame. It will also need another sheet of wax. So, overall, its really not worth my time to clean-up frames that have been damaged. My time IS worth something.

On the other spectrum, let’s look at hive bodies. A deep hive body costs about $15. As it ages, and the corners become damaged, I can cut it down into a medium. Again, when the edges get damaged, I can cut it down into a shallow (if I used shallows).

When it is on its last legs, I can still cut it down and use it as an All Season Inner Cover (design on the website of OSBA President Tim Arheit) Dan O’Callaghan showed this item at a meeting last year. It took about 45 minutes to take a beat-up medium that looked as though it was on its last legs, to become the newest incarnation. It was created from leftover window screen, paneling, and of course, the previously shabby hive body. If I were to buy a new one, it would be about $16. An idea that David Crawford, OSBA Treasurer shared with me: decrepit telescoping lids can also be re-claimed. Replacement rims for telescoping covers and even the replacement metal lids can be purchased from our advertisers.

So, before you go and throw items out….consider 2nd, 3rd, and even 4th lives for them!

No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

Honeyed Sweet Potatoes and Apples

3 sweet potatoes, 1/2 inch cubes
2 T. olive oil
2 T. honey (or more depending on apples)
1/2 c. water
2 tart apples (Granny Smith or Pink Ladies), cut in 1/2 in cubes
1 bunch scallions, thinly sliced
2T. butter

Heat oil in a skillet. Add sweet potatoes and stir-fry for a few minutes.

Add honey and water. Simmer gently, covered, until the sweet potatoes are tender (about 10 minutes). Stir every now and then to prevent burning.

Add apples. Cover and simmer until apples are hot.

Stir in scallions and add butter.
Become an OSBA Member. Period. There, I've said it. It's just that simple. You want to be part of the momentum, enthusiasm, exciting upcoming projects, and support structure that will help all beekeepers across Ohio.

How? Summer Conference, Fall Conference, OSBA Ohio State Fair Pavilion, DVDs, License Plates, Webinars/Podcasts, Educational Committee, Master Beekeeper Program, website, Facebook page...and there are even more projects in development.

Can you believe that just a few years ago, none of these great educational and outreach programs existed. With your support and volunteerism, the potential projects are unlimited. Your support will be a building block to a bigger and better organization.

Your membership helps support research at the OSU Bee Lab, 4-H, beekeeping awareness, renowned speakers at our conferences, expanded conference facilities, new beekeeper welcome packets, and more.

Beekeeping is alive and thriving here in Ohio. We sent out over 1,000 new beekeeper welcome packets to bee schools associated with Ohio beekeeping associations. Honestly, we were surprised at the number of requests.

Have you visited our website or Facebook page recently? We're approaching 700 “likes”, and our website is averaging well over 500 hits PER DAY.

We beekeepers working together are like the superorganism that we call the hive. Helping each other, looking out for the greater need, and enjoying each other’s company.

Join us in Oxford for one heck of an educational party. I’ll be there, so stop by and make a point of saying “Hi”.

Don’t lower your expectations to meet your performance. Raise your level of performance to meet your expectations. Expect the best of yourself and then do what is necessary to make it a reality.

Ralph Marston—football player
IN YOUR HIVES.  
OFF YOUR MIND.

In order to get the longest life out of Varroa control products, rotation is essential. Mite resistance can develop in a short period of time and that is why it is key to rotate your control materials with products like Apistan®. Rotating on an annual or semi-annual basis with products that have different modes of action will help manage mite resistance. Start your rotation program with Apistan®.

For more information, call 1-800-347-8272 or visit www.centralapiary.com.
Combining two old aphorisms: timing is everything, and cleanliness is next to Godliness, with modern "resource management" we can implement some timely and creative hive manipulations to promote overall hive health.

Frame rotation is one such tactic you may wish to consider, particularly if your Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program includes acaricides. Over time acaricide residues are absorbed in beeswax and their buildups have been implicated in queen problems and accelerated mite resistance.

One solution to combat this problem is to rotate out one or more of your brood frame annually. There are several options, but the principle remains the same. By replacing an older drawn frame with a new foundation frame you are limiting the number of years, and hence contaminant buildup, any given frame will be in your hive.

This is not an altogether new idea. In the past, beekeepers would wonder just how many decades (!) you could or should keep brood frames. It becomes obvious after a time that scale or cocoon residue builds up in cells. This is clearly seen when old frames are melted down, and instead of wax, you are left with an unmeltable hexagonal web structure. Aside: the primary concern was that scale buildup inside the cells made the cells smaller, and this in turn made for smaller bees (another article).

With ten frames in the standard brood chamber you will completely turn over all your frames every five or ten years depending if you replace one or two frames each year. Ideally you want to do this in late winter or early spring when most of the brood frames are absent of brood, pollen, and honey. Incidentally, you should inspect the brood frames early each spring anyway and cull any suspect frames due to excessive drone cells, mouse damage, “calving” due to entranceway light, etc.

As you replace old, drawn comb with new foundation it is imperative that you clearly label your top bars with the new entry date. I like to use a jumbo, permanent maker given the 5 or 10 years of bee-weathering that will take place before final frame replacement.

So, consider frame rotation under the heading of resource management. Do this in the late winter or early spring. It can be a valuable tool in your IPM program and you will have a healthier hive for your efforts.
OSBA - Annual Summer Conference June 6/7, 2014 –
Hosted by Butler County Beekeepers Association
Talawanda High School
5301 University Park Blvd, Oxford, OH

REGISTRATION

Name: ___________________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: _________________________________________________
Phone: _________________________________________________________
Names of Additional Attendees: ________________________________

Master Beekeeper Apprentice Hands-On Test: _______________________

Please note: If you are planning on attending any Hands-On Apiary sessions,
you must bring a hat and veil

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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
# Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2014 Membership Form

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

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

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

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________

City: __________ State: ___ Zip: __________ County: __________________________

Phone: (____) _______­________ Email Address (Print neatly) ___________________________

Name of Local Bee Association: ___________________________________________

☐ $15.00 Senior (age 60 or over)/student membership for 1 year
☐ $20.00 Individual membership for 1 year
☐ $25.00 Family membership for 1 year
☐ $200.00 Lifetime membership (individual or family)
☐ I want to receive the newsletter by email only (no hardcopy)

I would also like to donate ☐ $5 ☐ $10 ☐ $20 ☐ $_________ to support 4H and honey bee research

Membership is based on the calendar year, January through December.