Summer OSBA Conference Finished—
Fall OSBA Conference, November 3rd,
in the Planning Stages

Miami University in Oxford Ohio was a-buzz with beekeepers, vendors, and bees when the Butler County Beekeepers Association hosted the OSBA Summer Conference. BCBA’s President, Alex Zomcheck, and volunteers from the club helped to put together a fun and educational event — including a bee race!

Beekeepers had the opportunity to earn credits toward their Master Beekeeper training — those at the Apprentice Level were able to take their hands-on part of the testing.

Thanks to Butler County Beekeepers Association for hosting this event.

Mark your calendars for the Fall Conference….November 3rd in Reynoldsburg. We’re currently in the planning stages, and you can count on exceptional classes, a variety of vendors, and a few surprises. If you have some ideas for potential topics for the classes, please send your suggestions to OSBA Vice President John George at johngeorge706@gmail.com.
“A work in progress” is the answer I am giving when I am asked how (we) are doing. OSBA is a team effort and each member of the team is needed to contribute to the overall success of the organization. Now is not the time to pat ourselves on the back, thinking we have done a good job. Almost half of the year has elapsed, and over all, (we) are making quite a bit of progress, but much is to come.

Organizations, like OSBA, depend on volunteers dedicated to the organization’s mission. I would like to share some ideas with you as to what we can still work on -- not with what has been accomplished so far. If any of you have the skill and desire to get involved in any of these ideas, please contact me. I am one person and can say that I have a pretty full plate. Your help is absolutely vital if any of these future projects of OSBA are to have any life in them.

First observation: OSBA needs materials on beekeeping similar to the materials developed by other states and published by the state beekeeping organizations. In some cases, past OSBA Boards and leaders have developed some of the items. I am going to recommend they need updating during 2013.

I am not sure if many of you are aware of a small recipe book published by OSBA called Drops of Gold. Possibly OSBA could produce a tri-fold pamphlet with some recipes promoting the use of honey in baking. The National Honey Board has pamphlets that could be the design model if this idea is adopted. It would make a good hand-out at State and County Fairs, club conferences, etc.

What about a small pamphlet on Getting Started in Beekeeping? Or promoting each bee club in Ohio? Or one designed to indicate the products of the hive? Do you have any suggestions? OSBA has an educational mission, and for the most part, it is trying fulfill it without much in the way of printed materials. All that is needed is someone with a desire to put the information together, get the OSBA Board approval to publish it, and we can then share this information with an informed public.

Second observation: I have a tendency to take the bull by the horns and do a lot of work on my own. There are a lot of people in OSBA with ideas. For example, two individuals have approached me with some the following suggestions:

One is to get beekeeping on license plates. The other is to provide beekeepers with yard signs for out-apiaries as required by ODA. At present I do not have the authority to implement these ideas. I have encouraged the individuals to either contact local clubs for support, or take on the project themselves. I personally like the idea of a honey bee theme on license plates. OSBA Board Members need to hear from you on what your idea is – the Board would have to approve the effort and provide the financial resources to get the ideas off the ground. I suggest that the sign might be designed and sold at OSBA events by the beekeeper who suggested it. Again the use of OSBA logo would have to be made by the Board. A check was made with ODA to use their logo and the request was denied.

Ohio is a big state. Therefore, it is difficult to get all of the OSBA Directors or Representative to attend every Board meeting or state meeting. Communication needs to be improved among the Board members. I am glad to see some of our Representatives and Directors attending local club meetings within their districts. If you or your area is not represented, or the persons representing you are not showing up to share what OSBA is doing, OSBA does have elections for Directors and you should consider running for an office. Each year, the representatives are appointed by the OSBA’s President for a one year term. I need to do a better job of making appointments and letting these individuals know what OSBA is doing. Although not politically correct to point out, OSBA is only as strong as its weakest link.

OSBA has some strong officers and directors/representatives. I am not going to be running for another term as President of OSBA in the Fall 2013 (Continued on page 3)
OSBA Mission

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

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

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

The specialty crop grant that Ohio State Beekeepers Association is a part of, is currently being administered by the Ohio Produce Growers and Marketing Association (OPGMA). This group became the administrators on April 1, 2012 following the decision of Crossroads RC&D to cease operations and OPGMA making application to take over the grant.

One of the major changes from the original grant is that Dr James Tew was hired directly to develop educational videos and material to fulfill that portion of the grant still remaining.

I have been working with Jim on an almost weekly basis to develop those videos. We have approximately 23 of them set and ready to go. They are for the novice beekeeper and cover such topics as basic equipment, assembling equipment, installing a package, dealing with a laying worker, re-queening, replacing equipment, etc. These videos are each five to eight minutes in length. There are also PowerPoint presentations geared more to the intermediate beekeeper and run twenty to thirty minutes in length.

There are a few more topics to cover and we anticipate having thirty to thirty-five videos plus the power points when this project is finished. Jim is currently in Alabama and is due back in Ohio on June 13. Following his return we will again begin production and within a couple of weeks hope to meet with Tim Arheit to present material for placement on the OSBA web site.

We have been in regular contact with OPGMA and they have seen clips of the material. They have been providing proper documentation to the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

OPGMA is sponsoring a field day for its members on June 27 and I will have a display there (with Jim’s assistance) promoting OSBA and the honeybees important role in pollination. The cost of the display setup and material is being covered by the grant.

There seems to be some concern about OSBA’s financial obligation to this grant. OSBA did not make application for this grant. OSBA officers (then President Bob Hooker) did approach Crossroads RC&D with an idea and they made the application to the Ohio Department of Agriculture for the USDA funds. OSBA and the Ohio State University were listed as contributing members of the project. OSU has dropped the project and Crossroads administration interest has been transferred to OPGMA. OSBA in kind match portion of the grant has been met with volunteer hours of Bob Hooker, Ron Hoopes, Joe Kovaleski, and myself.

In return for those volunteer hours and hosting informational material on the OSBA website there was $5000 set aside in the grant for OSBA to upgrade and maintain their web site. (I need to talk to Tim about this as there is still over $4000 remaining.) OSBA was able to assist in hosting two queen workshops in the spring of 2011. OSBA will have several videos and power point presentations to host on their web site for viewing and use by an unknown number of beekeeping clubs, beekeepers, and those thinking of beekeeping.

The end of June marks the end of a reporting quarter (the first since OPGMA took over) and I will have a better feel for the overall financial picture of the grant. We appear to be well within the various budget areas. However I will know better in a few weeks as this quarter’s bills are tabulated. (I know there is an invoice somewhere from Wicwas Press to be paid, I’ve requested a copy from Larry Connor but have not received it as of yet. If anyone has received that please forward it on to me for payment)

**DON MYERS EASTERN OHIO APICULTURAL PROJECT GRANT**

This was a project undertaken in 2007 thru 2009 while Ron Hoopes was president of OSBA. He had approached Crossroads RC&D with an idea to find and train people in the Appalachia region of Ohio to be beekeepers. Funding was obtained through a number of agencies and organizations. Crossroads RC&D was the administrative agency.

I recently learned that in the shut down of Crossroads RC&D, audits were done and there was still about $1100 remaining in this program. Crossroads will be sending this money to OSBA, along with a letter of explanation, for use in beekeeper education to meet the intent of the project grant. That should be received within the next two weeks.
The **summer meeting** in Oxford was well attended and the Butler County Beekeepers did an outstanding job of hosting the summer event. Any club wanting to host the OSBA summer event will be hard put to do the job that Butler County did. There was excitement in the air all day long. It was my first summer meeting as OSBA President. I would like to complement all the board members and officers who attended and made it possible for the program to go off as it did. My special thanks and yours as well should go out to John George, Alex Zomchek, all the volunteers from Butler County, and the speakers for a job well done.

The **Master Beekeeper program** now has over 120 individuals signed up. OSBA recognized 19 new Certified OSBA Apprentices Beekeepers at the OSBA Summer Meeting with certificates. A number of others were present at the summer meeting to pass the bee yard inspections and many of these have now enrolled in the Journeyman Level Program.

The **Ohio Queen Initiative** will have completed distributing stock to the four clubs involved in the 2012 program. The clubs involved were: Medina County Beekeepers, Stark County Beekeepers, East Central Ohio Beekeepers and the Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers. If your club would like to be involved in 2013, please contact Dana Stahlman. OSBA would like to thank Dr. Joe Latshaw for the time, effort and stock he donated to OSBA to provide the outstanding stock distributed to these clubs. A future report will be made on the results of the distribution system developed by Dr. Latshaw.

The **Ohio State Fair** -- What can I say? The Ohio Exposition Commission has been very good to OSBA by providing the patio space 60 feet by 100 feet including a tent to cover the area at no cost. The OSBA board voted to give any bee club in Ohio an opportunity to have a table within the tent to share their clubs role in Ohio beekeeping for one day.

A big **thank you** also goes out to Guernsey/Nobel County Beekeepers and Tri-County Beekeepers for donating funds to carry out the educational mission of the event. To request a day at the fair, an official representative of the club must email: stahlmanapiaries@aol.com to request a date. The fair tent will be available to OSBA from July 29 thru August 5 (8 days). The time stamp on the email will determine the request for certain dates. Clubs will be able to sell honey but the board put a minimum price of $7.00 per pound and club will be responsible for fair admission for their members -- not OSBA.

The **newsletter** -- I have received so many compliments from members and others regarding the newsletter and how fantastic it is. For this we all need to thank Terry Lieberman Smith for a job well done. I also thank the board of directors for supporting the cost of mailing and printing this document. It is the one thing that all members of OSBA see and touch.

**Life Membership Information**

from our Treasurer, David Crawford: Thank you for supporting OSBA with a life membership. Your membership will help support the work of OSBA for years to come. Beginning with this calendar year, all monies received from life membership will go into a separate account. Only a small portion of life memberships will be used each year for general operations. The balance will remain on deposit for the organization’s sustainability.

**Minutes** from OSBA Board Meetings are available at the club’s website.

**OSBA Certified Master Instructors** These individuals are the elite of Ohio beekeeper instructors. This is the highest designation that OSBA gives to individuals in the Ohio Master Beekeeping Program. To become an "**OSBA Certified Master Instructor**" an individual must be elected by the OSBA board to this position. It requires proof of extensive beekeeping teaching experience, mastery of beekeeping skills and expertise in a beekeeping related field. The final decision on adding an individual to the list of "OSBA Certified Master Instructors" is determined by OSBA board members. Any of the following instructors teaching and giving talks at events are automatically approved for credit to candidates wanting to use the class hours for the OSBA Journey Level Program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Starrett</td>
<td>Jim Higgins</td>
<td>Denzil St. Clair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zale Maxwell</td>
<td>Roy Henderson</td>
<td>Ron Hoopes</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Grafton</td>
<td>Tim Arheit</td>
<td>Dr. James Tew</td>
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<td>Kim Flottum</td>
<td>Dr. Joe Latshaw</td>
<td>Joe Kovaleski</td>
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<td>James Thompson</td>
<td>David Heilman</td>
<td>Paul Reuter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dana Stahlman</td>
<td>Dr. Tim Miklasiewicz</td>
<td>Alex Zomchek</td>
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This is an old tradition among beekeepers to “Tell the Bees” whenever a change happens in the beekeepers family. You may Google “Telling the Bees” and find a poem from the 1800’s about this subject. You will also find some history on the subject. What OSBA wants to do is to recognize any beekeepers that have recently died.

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

All associations or individuals are asked to forward the name and home county of the beekeeper and the date of death if available. Any personal info may also be beneficial such as how long they may have kept bees, any offices they may have held in beekeeping associations, etc.

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

Please appoint someone in your association to notify an OSBA officer when a loss occurs so proper recognition will be made.

You may notify Ron Hoopes, Memorial Committee Chair at: beefarm2003@AOL.COM or cell 740.624.1683 if you have notices to pass on to the newsletter.
Beekeepers Take Front Seat at Ohio State Fair July 29 - August 5

Returning to the Ohio State Fair

The Ohio State Beekeeper’s Association is proud to announce that it is working with the Ohio State Fair Events Administration to develop a honey bee area near the DiSalle Center to support our mission to promote honey bees and their value as pollinators and beekeeping.

Presentations will run from noon until 6:30 p.m. Program Coordinator, Nina Bagley has worked to create a diverse and interesting topic list. Other activities include bee beards, vendor tables, club tables and lots more!

Sample Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 29</th>
<th>12:00 –1:00</th>
<th>Products of the bee hive</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:00</td>
<td>Bee Beard</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 – 3:30</td>
<td>Bee Friendly Plants</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 – 5:00</td>
<td>Bee Beard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 – 6:30</td>
<td>Cooking with Honey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This area will be devoted to sharing with fair visitors many aspects of beekeeping in Ohio and returning a Honey Show to the fair representing entries from all over Ohio. One of the features will be a bee beard demonstration several times a day, an actual mock up of a working bee yard, a honey tasting table with honey produced in Ohio, plus talks by beekeepers explaining the value of honey bees. Various honeybee organizations from across Ohio will be participating as will private vendors selling honey and bee products.

The Ohio State Beekeeper’s Association is sponsoring the competition and premiums for the various categories of entries. Find out who will win the title: “Best Honey in Ohio”! Other contests include: Honey-based baking, and photos related to beekeeping.

Mr. Jim Thompson has been selected to chair the honey show. Mr. Thompson is an EAS Master Beekeeper and Certified Honey Judge and author of “A Handbook for Honey Judges and Beekeepers Exhibiting Hive Products.”

During this eight day event, OSBA will help promote local bee associations. Clubs have been invited to send Dana Stahlman informational brochures about each club. OSBA Vice-President, John George, will develop a display board where these brochures will be available to the general public.

Local associations have also been invited to have a table at the fair to promote their club, sell honey, club items, etc. OSBA will provide the tables and chairs. Contact Dana Stahlman at stahlmanapiaries@aol.com for more details.

Ohio State Fair

Kentucky State Fair

Indiana State Fair

Pictures next issue!
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.
OHIO STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Regional Roundup

Get to know your OSBA Representatives! Here is an introduction to a few of the beekeepers who have stepped up to volunteer their time as your Regional Representatives.

Ron Hoopes — Representative for Buckeye Hills Region

Retired in 1998 with 37 years with the USPS. Retired as Postmaster of North Myrtle Beach, SC. Formally Postmaster of Crooksville, OH so upon retirement moved back to the farm in Crooksville.

I began beekeeping in 1998 when I noticed there were very few honey bees in the area. I then became a member of East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association, ECOBA. This group meets monthly and serves beekeepers in

Dwight Wilson — Director for Maumee Valley

Hi! My name is Dwight Wilson and I live near Findlay, Ohio. I retired from The Whirlpool Corporation in 2000 and am President of the Northwestern Ohio Beekeepers Association which meets at the Pandora High School. Most of our members come from Allen, Putnam, and Hancock County.

I was introduced to beekeeping by my Dad when he retired at the age of 62. He had bees as a boy in Virginia

Joe Kovaleski — Director for Crossroads Region

I have been keeping bees for 19 years. This all started out as a Boy Scout Beekeeping Merit Badge project with my younger son and two hives. I teach beekeeping to Boy and Girl Scouts, and 4H. I also give presentations to schools, garden clubs, and other beekeeping organizations.

Kimberly Flippen — Representative for Heart of Ohio

I began keeping bees after picking up a pamphlet at the Lithopolis Honey Festival that said “take this course and you could be a beekeeper by spring” I laughed as I signed up, little did I know I had taken the first step towards finding my passion in life. My fiancé and I went to ECOBA’s bee school to learn the basics of beekeeping. Where we learned of Tri County’s meeting at Wooster, we attended the many seminars and met with the vendors, I felt like a kid in a candy store. We have attended each year since. The day we picked up our first two nucs was as

Susan Valentine-Cooper — Director for Heart of Ohio

I live in Columbus with my husband Bill, and have been keeping bees since 2007 when I discovered a colony while painting my parent's house. My professional experience includes 30 years of preparing income taxes as an Enrolled Agent, and writing tax preparation software. I was also Senior Project Manager for a top 500 company

Tom Rathbun — Director for Erie Basin

My name is Tom Rathbun, from Clyde a community located in the southeastern corner of Sandusky County. I'm retired from the Sandusky County Sheriff Department where I worked as a Detective Captain. My education is from Terra Community College located in Fremont, Ohio and the F.B.I. National Academy, Quantico Va. which I studied Law enforcement. I also worked on a large family fruit and vegetable farm for over 30 years from which I

(Continued on page 10)
Ron Hoopes ... (Continued from page 9)

Perry, Muskingum, Licking and Fairfield counties for educational purposes.
I served as president of ECOBA from 2000 until 2007. I am also a life member of The Ohio State Beekeepers Association, OSBA, and served as president of OSBA, 2007 -2009.

I have helped teach "Bee School" at ECOBA for 10 years. Bee School is intended to help teach new beekeepers the skills necessary in beekeeping. Bee school is held in February each year.

I was selected as the Beekeeper of the Year by OSBA in 2011.

Dwight Wilson ... (Continued from page 9)

and wanted to have them again as a hobby. So, he enticed me to visit him by keeping bees with him. It worked! I soon had bees in several counties in northwest Ohio and he still had the bees behind his house. I have had bees for close to 40 years now and have around 150 to 200 hives. I always told my wife, Jerry..."It's all for the bees", and she always replied "It sure is!" She retired a year and a half ago and is now in the bee yards with me. Those bees keep us active and creative.

With the growth of new bee keepers in the last four years, there is plenty of opportunity to help others. The bee keepers in the state of Ohio have a lot to look forward to with the activities of the OSBA. One thing about bee keeping..........there is always something new to learn and a new person to meet, which makes it very enjoyable.

Joe Kovaleski ... (Continued from page 9)

I am an EAS Master Beekeeper, West Virginia Master Beekeeper, Ohio Master Beekeeper, EAS director for Ohio, and Ohio State 2008 Beekeeper of the Year.

My wife, Suzan, and I produce beeswax candles and honey for sale at many fairs and festivals, and have won many best of show and blue ribbons in honey and molded wax contests. I am part of the new Ohio Queen Initiative, and also a member of the West Virginia Queen Producers Assoc., raising queens in the northern panhandle.

Kimberly Flippen ... (Continued from page 9)

exciting as Christmas morning. That summer we learned of COBA’s fun in the bee yard, which led to many other classes and seminars. I am starting my third year as the Fairfield county apiary inspector, assist with coaching at COBA’s fun in the bee yard as well as attending the master beekeepers classes thru COBA and attending as many seminars and workshops thru OSBA as possible and working towards earning my master beekeepers certificate. At this time we 20 hives between two apiaries and are raising queens from Ohio stock. I have a BS in Business Administration from ODU; I’m a member the Order of the Queen, ECOBA, COBA and OSBA.

Susan Valentine-Cooper (Continued from page 9)

and then the Executive Director of a non-profit organization. Currently, I’m loving being a grandma and volunteering with several non-profit organizations. My love of bees comes naturally as my father is an Entomologist and I have had the opportunity to work with insects most of my life. Every October for a month, I work as a field assistant for my father and other scientists doing natural history surveys in the British Virgin Islands, collecting insects, banding birds, catching lizards and snakes and doing botanical surveys. I’m also a devoted bicyclist – making for difficult decisions on beautiful sunny days -- bees, bikes or (grand)-babies?

Tom Rathbun (Continued from page 9)

obtained my interest in honeybees and fruit tree farming, I currently have two acres of Apple and Peach trees. I’m a member of the Sandusky River Valley Bee Assoc. and recently hosted a Queen Rearing Class at my home and bee yard, I have four grown children with my wife of 32 years Mary, and our first grand baby due in October
**Club Corner**

**Buckeye Hills** has a growing beekeeper population. Currently the 5 clubs within this region (Mid-Ohio Valley, Tri-State, East Central Ohio, Guernsey/Noble County, Athens County, and Hocking County) have a total of over 350 members. Tri-State Beekeepers have partnered with Good Zoo in Wheeling to develop a honeybee exhibit that includes an observation hive. The club is also working with the culinary department of the Northern West Virginia Community College to develop a small apiary that will provide honey for the kitchens! East Central Ohio Beekeepers (ECOBA) has a club apiary located at Dawes Arboretum.

**Heart of Ohio** has 971 registered apiaries within the 9 county region. That’s about 10% of the total number of hives registered in Ohio! Heart of Ohio consists of five clubs, Central Ohio, East central Ohio, Scioto Valley, Morrow County and Knox County. Morrow and Madison Counties are in need of inspectors. Local clubs in this region are experiencing a very active swarm season. Several members from the Scioto Valley reported significant pesticide kills in April.

**Summit County Beekeepers** is involved with a variety of outreach programs. One of the most important projects is a multiple station field day with two Akron elementary schools. Many of the club’s members are urban beekeepers, and the outreach programs are a great way to gain new members and educate the public about the importance of beekeeping. They are also working to gain a larger presence at the Summit County Fair which has an attendance of over 50,000 people. They have doubled the number of entries in the past year. Also, check out the club’s new website:


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**No Teaspoons Allowed**

*(recipes that really use honey)*

**Honey Lemonade**

1 1/2 c. sugar  
1 c. honey  
2 c. water  
2 1/2 cups freshly squeezed lemon juice

Combine sugar, and 2 cups water in a large saucepan. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook for 4-5 minutes, until the sugar is dissolved and the mixture thickens a bit. Turn off the heat. Add the honey. Stir until the honey is dissolved. Let the mixture cool.

Pour lemon juice into a gallon container. Add the sweetened syrup. Add water to equal 1 gallon. Stir well.

You can also add a few pieces of fresh ginger to the initial sugar and water mix…just remember to remove the ginger before serving!
April through October

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

Educational Sessions for Beekeepers

April 18: Hive Health Diagnostics, Barb Bloetscher
May 16: Pesticides in and around the Hive, Dr. Reed Johnson
June 20: Mites and Honey Bees, Dr. Jim Tew
July 18: Planning Now for Winter Preparation, Barb Bloetscher
August 15: Questions from the Hive, Dr. Reed Johnson
September 19: Marketing Bee Products, Dr. Julie Fox
October 17: Putting the Hive to Bed for Winter, Kim Flottum

Join the Bee Lab contact list (http://bit.ly/osubeelab) for webinar link and instructions. This is the best way to be informed about other programs or new webinar links.

Questions? Contact Denise Ellsworth mailto:ellsworth.2@osu.edu
An Interview with Kim Flottum

To paraphrase from an old comedy movie, if Steve Martin were a beekeeper, each month he would run to the mailbox and say “the new Bee Culture is here, the new Bee Culture is here….. I must be a beekeeper!” I know that I look forward to each edition to help me become a better and more confident beekeeper.

Beekeepers have three publications that cater to the industry. One publication, Bee Culture, The Magazine of American Beekeeping, has been educating us for over 141 years. The first author, A.I. Root used a nom de plume of Novice. The magazine’s original title was: Novice’s Gleanings in Bee Culture, or How to Realize the Most Money with the Smallest Expenditure of Capital and Labor in the Care of Bees Rationally Considered.

Visit http://archive.org/details/novicesgleanings12medi if you want to read an issue from 1873. The magazine has gone through many alterations in both frequency and format before finally becoming a monthly magazine-style publication. When I first started beekeeping, the older beekeepers talked about Gleanings, while the newer beekeepers mentioned Bee Culture. I finally realized that they were talking about the same magazine. The title “Gleanings” was dropped in 1992.

I interviewed the current editor of Bee Culture, Kim Flottum, about the positive influence that he, and the magazine, has on the beekeeping community, Due to the internet, a wealth of information can now be found about beekeeping, and Bee Culture helps us sort out the good information.

Kim’s serendipitous adventure in the bee world began while he earned his degree in Horticulture from the University of Wisconsin; he worked in the Entomology Department for the Extension Specialist in small fruit, tree fruit, turf, ornamentals and greenhouses. He spent a lot of time learning about pesticides. Then, the USDA Honeybee Lab. offered him a job working with bees and pollination in 1979, which is when he and bees got together. In 1985 Agricultural work in Connecticut brought him into contact with local beekeeping associations when Penn-Cap-M (a pesticide) damaged apiaries. During this time, John Root, the head of the A.I. Root Company, was looking for an editor for Bee Culture. They met, they talked, and Kim was hired.

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Kim’s serendipitous adventure in the bee world began while he earned his degree in Horticulture from the University of Wisconsin; he worked in the Entomology Department for the Extension Specialist in small fruit, tree fruit, turf, ornamentals and greenhouses. He spent a lot of time learning about pesticides. Then, the USDA Honeybee Lab. offered him a job working with bees and pollination in 1979, which is when he and bees got together. In 1985 Agricultural work in Connecticut brought him into contact with local beekeeping associations when Penn-Cap-M (a pesticide) damaged apiaries. During this time, John Root, the head of the A.I. Root Company, was looking for an editor for Bee Culture. They met, they talked, and Kim was hired.

Beekeepers have three publications that cater to the industry. One publication, Bee Culture, The Magazine of American Beekeeping, has been educating us for over 141 years. The first author, A.I. Root used a nom de plume of Novice. The magazine’s original title was: Novice’s Gleanings in Bee Culture, or How to Realize the Most Money with the Smallest Expenditure of Capital and Labor in the Care of Bees Rationally Considered.

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Kim’s interest in beekeeping expanded beyond his own apiary. He has been actively involved with OSBA; four years as Vice-President (Program Chairman), and EIGHT years as President. He also was Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) Chairman from 1999-2007, and he worked to help launch Heartland Apicultural Society, HAS. He has written 3 books on beekeeping, and is VP of the Medina County Beekeepers Association, and the Editor of Bee Culture.

Kim is a beekeeper who remembers a time before the Varroa mites devastated the honeybee population. He talked about the years when Varroa first decimated the honeybees and reduced by 25% the number of beekeepers in the United States. In Ohio, the membership of OSBA dropped from 9,000 to 4,000 beekeepers. Kim stated that Varroa still has a wide-spread impact on beekeeping; politics, marketing, management of hives, and everything bees and beekeepers do is pursuit of working in the apiary.

He and his staff (Kathy Summers and Dawn Feagan) provide beekeepers across the U.S. and abroad, with current information that helps us in the apiary. Bee Culture’s focus is toward the hobby, sideliners, and beginner beekeeper. Each issue includes how-to guides, book reviews, ideas for clubs, updates on scientific research, and season-appropriate articles. Kim believes that if the article is well-written, it will give the reader the confidence to step out of their comfort zone.

Personally, I find quite a few “a-ha” moments when I read the magazine. An article from last year, entitled “Going Gloveless”, is an example of “why didn’t I think of that!”

We talked about the changing demographics of beekeepers. Bee Culture’s readership demographics show that most of subscribers are in the mid-40s to mid-50s. Suburban beekeepers have increased to 30%, and women account for 40% of the readers. Almost 1/4 of the subscribers have less than 5 years of experience in the apiary. When Kim first started as editor, in the mid 1980’s, most of the subscribers were male, long-term beekeepers over 60 year of age. Less than 10% of the subscribers were female, and less than 10% were under the age of 30.

(Continued on page 14)
An Interview with Kim Flottum..... (Continued from page 13)

Many of the newer beekeepers are not associated with local beekeeping clubs. In order to reach these non-affiliated beekeepers, and people interested in bees, *Bee Culture* is now available in the periodical sections of Barnes & Noble, Tractor Supply, Books-A-Million, and in Chapters stores (Canadian). The magazine will soon be distributed in Whole Foods Markets, and soon to be available in Wal-Mart stores.

One of Kim’s main concerns as editor is to keep each issue challenging and interesting to the readership. Dr. Jim Tew, Clarence Collison, Jennifer Berry, and Ross Conrad are just a few of the regularly featured writers who submit articles to the magazine. Readers are also encouraged to send in articles for submission to future issues.

*Bee Culture*’s “Mailbox” is one of the most popular sections of the magazine. Kim uses beekeeper feedback in order to develop topics for future articles. Kim’s estimate is that each criticism in the Mailbox Section reflects about 7% of the total readership opinions.

Another popular highlight is the annual pull-out calendar. The 2013 Calendar Photo Contest is “Bees ‘N The Hood”. Go to http://www.beeculture.com/ and click on the 2013 Calendar Photo Contest. Who knows, your entry may be seen by thousands of beekeepers!

We talked about today’s rapidly changing information formats and how that influences the future of the magazine. *Bee Culture*’s e-zine now has almost 1,000 e-readers. You can also read the magazine on i-Pads, i-Phones and Android devices. Today’s beekeeping Information is as mobile as the reader. Kim said that the demand for electronic media is growing, but not over-whelming, yet.

The *Bee Culture* website will also undergo some changes. Updates include an easier to use interface, access to more information (The Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) Grant program will be a future wealth of beekeeping research), videos, etc. The website will become the jumping off portal with links to popular beekeeping sites.

CATCH THE BUZZ is another way that Kim is using technology to reach out to the beekeeping community. Over 20,000 BUZZ subscribers receive news blasts via email that keep them up-to-date on timely topics of interest to the beekeeping community. Sign up at the magazine’s website for this free service.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, Kim has had a broad and positive impact on the beekeeping community through all of his work with bee associations and through his publications. When I asked him about his job as editor of *Bee Culture*, his response was “I have the best job in the world!” He said that he is challenged with new stuff every day and that he gets to share it with his fellow beekeepers. The ways to share the information may have expanded—hardcopy, website, Catch the Buzz, electronic editions, but the need to support beekeepers has grown in importance due to the groundswell of new beekeepers and the impact of varroa and pesticides on the honeybee population.
It is the opinion of this beekeeper that late summer/early fall is the best time to requeen colonies of bees. In reality, when one raises his own queens it is possible to requeen whenever a failing or inferior queen is discovered without the expense or trauma of a deteriorating hive while waiting for a purchased queen to arrive. But for those who routinely replace queens, the task is best accomplished before winter so a young queen can produce a large retinue of healthy bees going into winter.

The first question new beekeepers often ask is, "Why requeen when my queen has performed so well and there is no evidence she is failing?" First, there is no substitute for having a young queen. A young queen of unknown genetics is better than an old queen of known pedigree. She will produce maximum population to enter winter and she is 50% less likely to swarm in the spring. A queen in her second season is almost guaranteed to swarm out even when adequate brood nest space is provided.

The reason I prefer requeening in late summer or early fall is that I believe better purchased queens are available than those available in the early spring...usually. The high demand for spring queens to remedy queenlessness, for making splits, and to supply the package bee industry puts immense pressure on the queen breeding industry at a time when weather is uncertain and adequate open mating may be less than optimum.

Drones need warm weather to do their flying and queen chasing so good weather is a requisite for optimum mating. Even with a sufficient supply of mature drones to mate with virgin queens the high demand for queens in the spring makes keeping queens long enough to adequately test their brood production difficult if not impossible. Queens raised and shipped according to their calendar age rather than by tested performance has resulted in a high incidence of package queen failure, many becoming drone layers due to inadequate mating.

Requeening in the fall is after the spring honey crop has been produced and harvested, so a failed requeening effort does not jeopardize the entire season's performance by the affected colony. In the worst case scenario, that colony can be joined with another before winter if repeated requeening efforts fail, but normally adequate time exists to get the colony queen right and prepared for winter.

How to requeen has been the subject of many books so it isn't necessary to survey them all here. All methods of introducing queens work some of the time but no method is foolproof. So the method of choice remains a personal decision. One fact is clear, colonies made queenless 24 hours before introducing a new queen are more likely to be successfully requeened.

Perhaps the most fail safe method is to confine a new queen under a #8 hardware cloth (1/8" mesh) cage that is pushed into the comb of sealed worker brood. The cage should be approximately 6" x 6" and have no bees confined with her. Hive bees will instinctively feed the queen and as the worker brood under the cage emerges the queen is readily accepted as their queen and she will begin laying eggs in the vacated cells. Perhaps the greatest benefit of this method is that one can determine the attitude of the hive bees toward the queen by the way they act towards the cage itself. If they are aggressive towards the cage, they will be aggressive towards the queen...always...no exceptions. When the hive bees show a non-aggressive disposition to the cage, the cage can be removed releasing the queen.

Snip and Save Technique
How good are your honey, candles, mead, photos and baked goods? Have you had customers tell you your honey was the best they’d ever tasted? Bring your efforts with you to EAS in Burlington and show off!

Don’t worry if you’re unsure of how to get ready to enter a Honey Show, or never have entered one before. The EAS website now has an informative Honey Show Page. It has tips, instruction, photos, videos, webinars, rules and more. The highest-quality links, articles, and presentations on the internet were collected on it.

Learning to get hive products ready for a show is the same as learning how to prepare them for market. By investigating and using the site, you’ll improve your skills. Not only will you learn to improve your products for market and for the EAS Honey Show, but it’s also fun to exhibit at county fairs and state beekeeping meetings.

In competitive shows, presentation is the key thing to remember. Judges assume that the bees did a superb job of creating honey. The question is: What did you do with that honey? How well did you harvest, package and present it? This is about showing off what your bees have given you, presenting the beauty of their gifts to others, and carrying that beauty forward in the products you provide for sale.

There are twelve honey and comb honey classes. The taste/aroma/consistency of honey is judged subjectively only in one class, the Black Jar. To enter this class, spray paint a lidded jar black, fill with your best honey (even creamed!) and replace the lid with a new one. Everyone who comes to EAS should enter this class. The Art & Crafts classes are very open-ended. Sewing, Novelty Beeswax, or Gift Arrangement and the all-encompassing Miscellaneous Arts & Crafts class, open to your imagination. Do you have something you already made? Can you make something beautiful by August 15th?

What about that weird little thingy you built a few years ago? That would be great for the Gadgets classes. Make an explanatory card to go with your gadget. It’s nice if the card is large enough for EAS attendees to read when they view the show after judging is done.

Do you have a basement full of mead or honey beer? Check out all those bottles for the best ones. Practice on your family with your baked goods recipes. Practice makes perfect, and they’ll thank you. 25% of the sweetener must be honey, but more is better. Do you have a box of prints of beekeeping-themed subjects?

Look through them and find the best ones. There’s still time to get photos mounted according to Show Rules. This is a good spot to mention that you should consult the EAS Honey Show Rules before preparing any entries. Read the General Rules as well as the rules for the classes you are entering. Heck, read all the rules.

As a special incentive to enter, The Vermont Beekeepers Association is giving the EAS 2012 Sweepstakes Award. This award will be given to the entrant who amasses the most total points in the show.

Bring more entries...get more possible points! Let's all bring lots of entries and make the classes as full as possible! It's more satisfying that way, better than if a class only has a few entries.

Have fun by entering the EAS 2012 Honey Show, and later you'll learn a lot from your score card which will help you improve for future Shows. Check out the Honey Show page on the EAS website, and let's make 2012 a year to remember!

www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2012/2012-honey-show
Part II—Designing and Building a Top Bar Hive

I obtained the design for the TBH I used from Bi-obees.com. There are other designs out there on the web, but I felt this was the design that fit my needs. The TBH is basically a trough with bars across the top to close it in. The ends of the trough are closed off with 1/8” mesh closing off the bottom.

The top is open with bars covering the top of the hive. These bars are 1 3/8” wide and are long enough to cross over the trough with about 1 inch extra on each side. Follower boards are boards attached to a top bar the same shape as the trough. These boards fit into the cavity of the hive and are used to adjust the length of the hive and can be used to split a hive into 2 hives.

A top cover is placed over the top of the hive similar to the telescoping top cover of a Langstroth hive to keep the rain out. What I added to this design was a bottom board. The bottom board is a bit larger than the opening on the bottom of the hive. I used eyelets and springs similar to those used on screen doors to keep the bottom board up and snug to the bottom of the hive.

I will not go into much more detail on the construction of the hive as that can be found at the web site Bi-obees.com. Although I will discuss the top bars a bit more as I feel there is quite a bit of discussion as to which type of top bars work best, and that is where most of my difficulty on managing the hive came from. There are many types of top bars. Following are the three that I have read about. I have tried two of them. These bars create the inner cover of the hive and give the bees a guide to where to build the comb.

1. A 1/8 inch groove is cut along the length of the bar 3/8 inch deep, about the width of a saw blade. The groove is filled with wax. This is the first type of top bar that I tried. My experience is that it is difficult to keep the wax within the groove. It tended to spill over and I would then have to scrape off the excess and it would sometimes pop out. I believe because of this it did not give the bees a true guide and helped contribute to the cross comb issues that will be discussed later.

2. A V or bead along the length of the top bar is made out of wood. Then a block of wax is rubbed along the peak of the V to give the bees a guide. I have not tried this but from what I have read, many beekeepers have had good success with this.

A 1/8 inch groove is cut along the length of the bar 3/8 inch deep, about the width of a saw blade. Then a strip of starter comb about 1 inch and the length of the top bar is added. I would heat up the top bar with a heat gun (basically a hot hair dryer) and then insert the wax foundation into the groove on the top bar. This would allow the wax foundation to melt a little and attach to the top bar. I am currently trying this with good success. One thing I have read is that this does not give a good contact of the comb to the top bar. I did not start trying this until late in the season and need a bit more time with this method. But initial tries look good.

(Continued on page 18)
Top Bar Hives... (Continued from page 17)

To introduce the bees I put both follower boards in the middle of the hives and place 10 top bars in between both follower boards. I then removed a few of the top bars and placed in a quail feeder at one end with a sugar water solution in it. This feeder was placed right on top of the screen bottom. I then closed off all but 2 of the entrances into the cavity with some wadded up news paper. Similar to the method as introducing bees into a Langstroth hive, I would remove the cork from the end of the queen cage and poke holes in the candy. I would then place the queen cage on top of the feeder. Next I would shake the bees out on top of the queen cage. Replace the top bars and put the top cover on the hive. I then did not open the hive for three days. After 3 days I opened the hive and made sure the queen was out. If she was not out of the cage, I pulled the screen back and shook out the queen into the hive. At that time I would then put the top bars back on, replace the top cover, and remove the paper from the entrances to the hive.

Part III— After the Introduction

Let’s Talk Wax

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Cleaned beeswax can be more valuable, ounce for ounce than honey. But, how to get cleaned beeswax without spending a lot of $$? You can find plans for solar wax melters (SWM) anywhere on the internet. Or, you can purchase them for over $300.

I was in need of a SWM, but I don’t use power saws, and I didn’t want to add this to my husband’s to-do list. So… I looked around and found a picnic cooler sitting in the garage collecting dust. Nearby was a dusty pane of glass. There it was— my new SWM!

I remembered that Lowell Martin, a beekeeper with Miami Valley Beekeepers, gave a presentation about using a plastic container, hardware cloth, and a paper towel as the containers for the wax cappings. I didn’t have hardware cloth, but rubber bands could hold the paper towels!

So here is the process. Rinse and drain the cappings, and then let them dry overnight. The next day put about 1 inch of water into some empty sour cream containers, top the container with a paper towel—making sure that there is a “hollow” for the blob of wax, and then secure the paper towel with a rubber band. Take a handful of the cappings and form it into a ball, and place the ball on the paper towel.

Put your cooler in a sunny location. Put the containers in the cooler, top it with the glass, and left the sun’s rays to do their magic. In a few hours, the wax will melt through the towel, leaving a yucky mess on the paper towel. Wait until the next morning to remove the containers— the wax is hot and you don’t want to get burned!

(Continued on page 23)
The following proposal was approved by both Ohio associations:

**Standard of Identity – Honey**

**OHIO DRAFT PROPOSAL**

1. This standard applies to all honey produced by honey bees from nectar and covers all styles of honey presentation that are processed and ultimately intended for direct consumption and to all honey packed, processed or intended for sale in bulk containers as honey, that may be repacked for retail sale or for sale or use as an ingredient in other foods.

2. “Honey” means the natural sweet substance produced by honeybees from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store, and leave in the honeycomb to ripen and mature. It consists essentially of different sugars, predominantly fructose and glucose as well as other substances such as organic acids, enzymes and solid particles derived from the foraging activities of the honey bee. The color of honey can vary from nearly colorless to dark brown. The consistency can be fluid, viscous, or partially to completely crystallized. The flavor and aroma vary, but are derived from the plant’s origin.

3. Honey sold as such shall not have added to it any food additives, nor shall any other additions be made other than honey. It shall not have begun to ferment or effervesce and no pollen or constituent unique to honey may be removed except where unavoidable in the removal of foreign matter.

4. Honey shall meet the following standards:
   a. Honey shall not be heated or processed to such an extent that its essential composition is changed or its quality is impaired.
   b. Chemical or biochemical treatments shall not be used to influence honey crystallization.
   c. Moisture Content – Honey shall not have a moisture content exceeding 20%.
   d. Honey shall contain
      1) Not less than sixty percent (60%) fructose and glucose, combined.
      2) The ratio of fructose to glucose shall be greater than 0.9.
   e. Sucrose content shall not be greater than five percent (5%) (5g/100g).
   f. Water insoluble solids content shall not be greater than 0.1g/100g.
   g. No water may be added to honey in the course of extraction or packing for sale or resale as honey.

5. Name of the Food
   a. Products conforming to the standard of identity as adopted in this rule shall be designated honey. Foods containing honey and any flavoring, spice or other added ingredient or if honey is processed in such a way that a modification to honey occurs that materially changes the flavor, color, viscosity or other material characteristics of pure honey, then such foods shall be distinguished in the food name from honey by declaration of the food additive or modification such food additive or modification should be noted on the label in a font that is prominently displayed on the label.
   b. Honey may be designated according to floral or plant source if it comes predominately from that particular source and has the organoleptic, physicochemical and microscopic properties corresponding with that origin.
   c. Where honey has been designated according to floral or plant sources [as stated in (5)(b)], then the common name of botanical name of the floral source shall be used in conjunction with or joined with the word honey.
   d. The styles of honey identified in subparagraphs (5)(e)2 and 3 shall be declared on packaging labeling as Honey, Comb Honey, Cut Comb in Honey, Honey with Comb or Chunk Honey as appropriate.

(Continued on page 24)
Developing Partnerships—A Win-Win Situation

Beekeepers aren’t the only ones who need mentors. Beekeeping associations of all sizes also need mentors to help make them more successful. Club mentors can help clubs with meeting locations, promotional opportunities, and sometimes even partnering in activities. Developing partnership with another organization can be beneficial to both groups. This series of articles is written from the mentors standpoint.

If you would like to share how your club is working with a mentor organization, please send the story to me at: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com

I look forward to sharing your club’s success with the rest of the beekeepers across Ohio

Greene County Parks & Trails Teams Up with Greene County Beekeepers Association

Cris Barnett, Chief Naturalist, Greene County Parks & Trails

I am a firm believer that you never know when something good is going to happen, or if the next person through your door is the person to make that happen. Over ten years ago now, I had one of those moments and it has been a positive partnership ever since.

Bill Starrett (former president) of the Greene County Bee Keepers Association was the stranger that walked through the Greene County Parks & Trails, Nature Center door that day. He was there to talk with me about having an observation hive installed in the Nature Center. Having two staff people that carried epi pens to assist with insect bites; an observation hive was not the best idea for us. But how could we work together to bring education about bees to the public.

The Bee Keepers Association was also growing at the time and looking for a new place to hold their monthly meetings. A partnership grew out of these needs. The first few years the Beekeepers had thriving hives at the nature center, taught classes on splitting hives and extracting honey; along with this they used the nature center as their home base for monthly meetings. Program press releases, event marketing and event assistance was all done by Greene County Parks & Trails. Wow! The public response was overwhelming.

For the last three years Greene County Parks & Trails has worked with Bill Starrett to offer not one but two beginning Beekeeper Classes with 25+ students in each class. Student’s response from this class has evolved into a second year beekeeping class. Not only has the classes taken off but so has the attendance for the monthly Beekeepers meetings. The Association has outgrown the Nature Center, so Greene County has now made their Media Room available. On a monthly basis the Beekeepers Association has upwards of 70+ people attending their meetings.

So what started out as a meeting of strangers has turned out to be a wonderful collaboration between two groups! This partnership not only has brought new people into the parks, but also has opened the world of beekeeping to many people.
Spring management is the most critical phase of the beekeeping year. Seasonal success or failure is directly related to the quality of one’s spring management program. However, the real key to spring management success is proper winter preparation the previous year. Despite the season ending title, winter preparation actually begins in early to mid July. There are four specific areas of concern, mite control, queen status and requeening, food reserves, and colony protection.

Mite Control
Varroa control is without question the most significant winter preparation issue. If you are unable to manage or control Varroa, any further attempt at winter preparation is wasted effort. The real secret to Varroa control is to start early, preferably by the middle of July. Remove the surplus honey crop at the first opportunity, and initiate a sampling protocol to determine the colony or apiary mite load. Regardless of the sampling method or technique, once the results indicate the need for treatment, it’s imperative that the appropriate treatment be applied as soon as possible. This will allow the colony adequate time to recover and rebuild its population prior to the onset of cold weather.

For discussion purposes let’s assume the sampling results indicate that some form of immediate control is necessary. There are four basic treatment options at your disposal. You can treat with one of the approved mite control products such as Apiguard, a thymol based gel; Hopguard, a beta acid impregnated into cardboard strips; or Mite Away Quick Strips, a one time formic acid application. You can institute a non-chemical (IPM) integrated pest management strategy, or use a combination of IPM procedures and chemical controls when necessary. Or, you can opt out of any form of treatment and hope for the best. This is a personal decision every beekeeper has to weigh based on the current apiary conditions and managerial preference. In the event sampling results indicate no treatment is necessary, remain vigilant. Varroa-virus issues can change dramatically within a very short time span. Long term success is dependant on maintaining adequate Varroa control.

Queen Status & Requeening
Generally speaking, colonies headed by young queens tend to overwinter in better condition than those headed by older queens. Colonies that are re-queened in mid summer head into winter with a larger population of young winter bees; this not only increases their overwintering prospects, it also has a positive effect on spring buildup. If that isn’t justification enough, consider this commercial beekeeping truism. On average, in 20% of the colonies headed by queens one year old or older, the queen will fail or be superseded during spring buildup period prior to the onset of the main honey flow. This untimely queen replacement and the corresponding decline in field force numbers, frequently results in a partial, to near total loss of the surplus honey crop. Swarming also enters into the old queen equation. Again, because of the queen’s age and the associated decrease in pheromone distribution, colonies headed by older queens are much more likely to swarm than those headed by queens less than a year old.

Queen age aside, there are plenty of other reasons to requeen. Weak colonies or colonies where the queen is exhibiting obvious signs of failure should be requeened at the earliest opportunity. Colonies with brood diseases such as Chalkbrood or EFB are prime requeening candidates. The same holds true for colonies headed by queens whose progeny exhibit undesirable characteristics such as excessive brood production, temper issues, or excessive swarming tendencies. In my opinion, any colony that requires any form of chemical Varroa control should be requeened. Overall stock improvement should be the long term goal, regardless of the current issues that necessitate queen replacement.

Queen replacement is one of the most challenging aspects of any colony management program. There are a variety of different requeening techniques that one can use, depending on the circumstance of the moment. In general, a “keep it simple” strategy works best; it not only minimizes most of the hassles, but also offers the greatest chance for success. For example: it’s often nearly impossible to requeen a populous colony with caged queen or queen cell. Instead, make a weak split to receive the cell or caged queen. Once the queen has been accepted and is laying well, use the split to requeen the parent colony. Simply remove the old queen, and introduce the split as a unit directly into the center of the upper brood box. The extra effort required to start and manage the split is more than offset by the increased acceptance.
Winter Preparations... (Continued from page 21)

rate. Summer splits are another classic example of the ideal requeening vehicle. Once the surplus crop has been removed, split the now unnecessary production colonies into multiple parts, and requeen each with a locally produced queen or cell, if available. The best of the splits are allowed to grow and are overwintered as next year’s replacement colonies, or offered for sale on the local market. The duds are recombined with queenright units, or the bees are shaken out and the combs reused as needed.

Food Reserves
Despite all the problems associated with Varroa, starvation is still the primary cause of overwinter colony loss. To overwinter successfully, a colony must contain enough stored honey to sustain itself until the onset of the early buildup flows the following spring. Any shortfall should be made up through supplemental fall feeding. From an operational standpoint, top feeding is by far the easiest and most efficient way for small beekeepers to feed. By top feeding I refer to the practice of feeding via a quart Mason jar or plastic gallon jug inverted over the center hole in the inner cover. Punch or drill 10 to 15 small holes (approx. 1/16 inch) in the container lid. Once filled, elevate the feeder approximately ¼ in above the center opening to allow the bees total access to the syrup.

Use an empty super or hive body to protect the feeder from the elements. With this system, once feeding has commenced, it’s often possible to quickly replace or refill the feeder without the use of either a smoker or veil. Depending on territorial latitude and the amount of feeding required, fall feeding should commence by mid to late September at the latest. In extremely poor years where the threat of late summer starvation exists, begin feeding immediately upon removal of the honey crop. Colonies on the verge of starvation in late August or early September rarely recover in time to overwinter successfully.

Cane or beet sugar, which works best? Both are sucrose, and they work equally well. Cane sugar is always labeled as such; beet sugar is almost never specifically identified. If the bag or box just says sugar, it’s invariably beet sugar. For small quantity mixing purposes, sugar and water are almost identical when compared on a weight to volume basis. For example, by volume a 5 lb (80oz) bag of sugar contains approximately 10 – eight oz measuring cups. Fill that same 8 oz measuring cup with water, the water also weighs about 8 oz. Therefore a 5 lb bag of sugar when mixed with 10 cups of water would yield roughly 10 lbs of 1:1 syrup. The same bag when mixed with 5 cups of water would yield about 7 ½ lbs of 2:1 syrup. For larger quantities simply convert water volume to weight based mixing formula using 8 lbs per gallon as the conversion basis. For specific sugar weights and the compatible water volumes refer to the table below. 1: 1 Mixtures: 10 lbs of sugar into 10 lbs or (1 gallon + 1 quart) of water; or 25 lbs of sugar into 25 lbs or (3 gallons + 1 pint) of water. 2: 1 Mixtures: 10 lbs of sugar into 5 lbs or (2 quarts + 1 pint) of water: or 25 lbs sugar of into 12 ½ lbs or (1 gallon + 2 quarts + 1 cup) of water

Emergency Spring Feeding: since early spring weather patterns and the corresponding buildup honey flows are relatively unpredictable, the specter of early season starvation is always present. The simplest way to solve this problem is to transfer frames of honey from overly heavy colonies to those in need. The same holds true for weak colonies with an excess food reserves. Assuming there are no AFB disease issues, don’t be afraid to use any leftover honey from winter deadouts. Colonies in weak to average condition should have at least one frame of feed honey placed adjacent to an outside frame of brood. Strong colonies should have frames of feed honey placed on both sides of the active broodnest.

Absent those options, why not try wet sugar? Granulated sugar and cold water are the active ingredients. Preparation consists of simply mixing the desired amount of sugar with just enough cold water to create a product that has the appearance of wet gravel. Out in the bee yard; scoop the desired amount onto a sheet of waxed paper on the top bars directly above the cluster. Use a deep rimmed inner cover or spacer rim to provide accommodation space. Within 24 to 36 hours the sugar will harden to a fondant like consistency, and the bees will use it exactly as they would fondant or a candy board.

Mixing wet sugar is a little like mixing concrete or mortar. Add too much water to the mix and you have an unusable product. Consequently, err on the side of caution. Add the water in small increments until you reach the proper consistency. The basic wet sugar formula is 10 parts granulated sugar to 1 part cold water, by volume, or 5 lbs (10 cups) of sugar and approximately 1 cup of water.

Windbreaks & Colony Protection

Wind stress is probably the most underrated aspect of the overwintering equation. Constant wind stress has a debilitative affect on overwintered colonies of any size, the colder the climate the
**Winter Preparations**

(Continued from page 22)

greater the potential damage. Natural windbreaks such as woods, a heavy tree line, or the leeward side of a hill are ideal. Man-made windbreaks include buildings, solid fences, or a few strategically placed bales of hay. Anything that knocks down or diverts the prevailing winter winds will add significantly to colony overwintering success.

Next to wind protection, top insulation is the primary colony protection consideration. Top insulation helps retain the heat given off by the winter cluster thereby allowing the cluster to expand and move during periods of mild winter weather. In addition, this heat retention factor also helps the colony increase its brood rearing capacity during the cold, often inclement early spring buildup period. Setup consists of cutting an upper entrance approx. 3/8ths by 3 in. into the inner cover rim. Install the cover with the upper entrance side down, so the bees have direct outside access. Block the center hole with a thin piece of plywood or a piece of roofing shingle to prevent the bees chewing into the insulation. Finish up by cutting a two inch piece of standard Styrofoam building insulation to fit between the inner and outer covers. (Two one inch pieces glued or duct taped together work equally well) Use a rock, or some form of tie-down or banding system to hold everything together.

Beekeepers operating in the northern third of the state might also want to consider wrapping their colonies with either 15 lb roofers felt, or the Colony Quilt wrapping material through B&B Honey Farm. On quiet sunny days the black wrapping material absorbs the sun’s heat, and when combined with top insulation increases the opportunity for the cluster to move and maintain contact with the stored food reserves.

In summary, there are an infinite number of variations on the winter preparation theme, don’t be afraid to experiment. The development of a comprehensive overwintering strategy fitted to your specific situation is a very worthy endeavor, and one that should return big dividends the following spring. Good Luck.

**Let’s Talk Wax**...(Continued from page 18)

Bring the containers into the house, and remove the wax coated towel. Put the container in the sink, turn it upside down, and the water and your wax puck should pop right out!

Repeat until all your cappings and scraping are clean and ready to be re-melted into saleable units. I use old ice cube trays as molds for the 1 ounce ingots!

Note: Do not plan on using the cooler for any picnics in the future. It has a tendency to get warped due to the heat (see picture). I’ve used the same cooler for about 4 years. I’ve picked up a few from the thrift store just in case this one breaks. A friend presented me with one he found on the side of the road—a full-sized Coleman cooler!
Honey may be designated according to the following styles:

1) Honey which is honey in liquid or crystalline state or a mixture of the two;
2) Comb Honey which is honey stored by bees in the cells of freshly built broodless combs and which is sold in sealed whole combs or sections of such combs;
3) Cut Comb in Honey, Honey with Comb or Chunk Honey which is honey containing one or more pieces of comb honey.

Adulteration and Misbranding of Honey

The following shall be prima facie evidence of adulteration under XXXXXX or misbranding under XXXX of any product sold or offered for sale as honey:

1) The product has a maltose content in excess of 10%; or
2) The product contains oligosaccharides indicative of invert syrup; or
3) The absolute value of Carbon Stable Isotope Ratio Analysis (CSIRA) is not more negative than -20.0 for the product; or
4) CSIRA Internal Standard Procedure with a protein value minus honey value is more negative than -1.0 for the product; or
5) The product fails to conform to the standard of identity stated in XXXX.

What can you do? Local associations need to get involved, passing resolutions in support of the Ohio Honey Standard. Another suggestion is to get as many people as you can to sign a petition to show Ohio beekeepers’ want a honey standard. Anyone who has friends in the legislature is urged to call them and see if they will sponsor a bill for an Ohio Honey Standard.

Ohio needs a honey standard, and the committee believes the beekeepers of Ohio are willing to work to get it.
Beekeepers talk about the winter doldrums, when not much is going on in the apiary. All we can do is read magazines, build equipment, and wait until spring. What most beekeepers don't talk about, because it goes by in a sudden whirl of activity, is the frenetic pace of late spring and early summer.

Late spring and early summer can be wild times in the apiary. Our time and stress levels are stretched to the max. Sometimes we have to visit the girls even when the weather is not conducive to a calm and pleasant experience. There's just so much going on; are they collecting honey, do I need to add more supers, is the queen laying as she should, checking drones larvae for mites, considering splits for summer re-queening, dealing with swarms of your own and others…..the list seems endless. And to top it all, real life intervenes with its own demands.

When life is so crazy, even an experienced beekeeper can make novice mistakes. For instance, we leave a frame with a bit of honey in it, leaning against a hive for a few minutes. Before you know it, the frame is covered with an excited mob of bees.

When life gets crazy you need to slow down. As backward as that sounds, the faster you run on the treadmill of life, and the more you try to multitask, the more you will trip and the tasks will hit the ground. When you're out with the bees, focus on them, and not the fact that you need to train your puppy, or what's on the menu for dinner.

Set yourself up for success. I find that writing down the tasks that need to be done for the week, and then breaking it down by day, helps me focus and keep things on track. For instance, if I need to make a few nucs I need to decide before I go out to the apiary how I'm going to create them. Am I going to take a few frames from a few hives, or do I need to parcel out a super strong colony; where the nucs going to be placed, etc. If I wait to decide on all of this until I get to the apiary can be overwhelming and sometimes may not offer the best results.

Also, if you keep updated records on your apiary visits, you will save time on future outings. If you know you need more frames, another hive body, or a new telescoping lid, you can pull the equipment and have it ready—it will save you many trips back and forth to the barn, garage or house.

This weather can make even the most even-tempered hive more than a bit cranky. Sometimes all it takes is a stinging incident and a beekeeper steps to the sideline. Sometimes the guilt of not having made a recent visit can also prevent future visit.

We can get so overwhelmed that we do absolutely nothing. Our apiary activity comes to a grinding halt. This lack of action by itself causes the apiary to get out of control. The best way out of this state of denial, is the swiss cheese approach. Take a little nibble at the time. A little bit of action may solve the stalemate. Start by cleaning your hive tools, gloves, and other beekeeping apparel. Give yourself a limited visitation schedule of half an hour, 45 min or whatever timeframe you like, as long as it isn't over 1 hour. When you reach your time limit with the girls, close up the hive and head home.. Go back to your house. Clean your hive tools, get a drink of water and go on to a different task. Sometimes something as short as a half hour visit to the apiary can re-energize the beekeeper inside. The next day, is a different time.

The first few visits back to the apiary may be a bit uncomfortable until your confidence starts to return. Before you know it, you'll be back in the apiary, productive, and enjoying your time with the girls.

Keep an eye out for great bargains in the stores. Back to School Sales begin in a few weeks. Rubberbands (for use in your solar wax melter, or to hold in comb from cut-out hives), marking pens (to put the date on your equipment), blank labels, and even paper are usually discounted or even free thanks to the beginning of school.

If you are thinking of putting together honey related gift baskets for family and friends save some money by purchasing your baskets from local yard sales or thrift stores. This year the honey crop may be limited due to the excessive heat and water shortage. A great gift idea is a mug with a 3 oz or 6 oz honeybear inside! Add a few teabags tied on with ribbon or raffia and then tie it all up with some clear cellophane wrap. A thoughtful and tasty gift...and no one will know that it wasn't a lush honey crop!
There is a new commercial on the television that could be applied to this issue of Ohio Beekeeping. Everyone repeats the same phrase, but with different words. They are trying to make a point that they have a great idea. Really, truly.

In this issue you will find articles in the “Snip and Save” section about late Summer/early Fall activities in the apiary. Different authors with overlapping subjects. Why? Because now is the time to create your plan of action.....by the October issue, these activities will be moot. Timeliness sometimes requires repetition. We want you to be confident and successful when you enter your beeyard.

Although the Summer Conference is now over, we’re looking forward to the Fall Conference in Reynoldsburg on November 10, 2012. If you missed the opportunity to attend the Summer Meeting, you still have the option to get some great education (esp. if you are enrolled in the OSBA Master Beekeeper Program), door prizes, and beekeeper camaraderie.

Just when we thought swarm season was over and we could hunker down and not drive all over kingdom come rescuing bees....the winds from the storm of the June 29th came barreling through the Miami Valley. Our phones were ringing with homeowners who discovered colonies in their downed trees... in some cases part of the colonies were on the ground, the rest were still up in the trunk. I have a feeling bee gums will be on display in many local apiaries.

Hot and dry, hot and dry. Two words that can wreak havoc on the bees (and humans too). Water and ventilation, water and ventilation. The girls need lots of water, so it is up to the beekeeper to provide this resource. You have lots of choice: a chicken waterer in the apiary, a mason jar of water in a Boardman feeder at the front of a hive, a bucket with cloth draped into it, or a birdbath with stones as safe landing zones. You want to keep the girls away from your neighbor’s pools and water features.

Ventilation can be as simple as a screened inner cover or tipping the telescoping lid so that the back lip sits on the top of the inner cover.

Design and formulate your plan for a successful and productive late summer apiary!!

A Note from the Editor

Terry Lieberman-Smith
## 2012 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION

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### Ohio State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

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

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

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

Name: ____________________________  
Address: ____________________________

City: __________ State: ___ Zip: __________ County: _________________

Phone: (____) _______ - __________  Email Address (Print neatly) ________________________________

Name of Local Bee Association: ____________________________

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

A year membership is based on the calendar year, January through December.
Ohio Beekeeping Highlights:

- President’s Letter
- Updates on OSBA Activities
  - OSBA Buzz
  - OSBA at the Ohio State Fair
  - Meet your OSBA Director/Representative
  - Snip & Save Beekeeping Techniques
- And much more!

Dana Stahlman and Tim Arheit
Getting the Contestants Ready
for the Great Bee Race