OSBA Logo Contest—Finalists

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association is holding a contest for a more user friendly and identifiable logo. Initial entries were due by June 1st, 2013. 45 entries were received. The Logo Committee and Executive Board reviewed the designs and chose the top 4 entries. These top 4 entries and existing OSBA logo are displayed in color below, and on the next page in black and white format, for voting by the general membership. Members may vote by mail or on the OSBA website http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/logo-contest-voting/. Limit one vote per member and votes must be received by August 7, 2013. The winning logo will be announced in the 4th Quarter OSBA Newsletter.
OSBA Logo Contest, con’t Entries in Black and White

Voting is open to OSBA Members. Limit one vote per member. All votes must be received by July 31st, 2013. You may register your choice by voting online at www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org or by sending this form to:

Tim Arheit, 330 Sunderland Rd S, Delphos OH 45833

Name: ____________________________
Phone Number: ______________________
Zip Code: __________________________

First Choice: _____ Second Choice: _____
The first half of the year is now behind us. After a terrible winter and not much better spring, the honey crop is now coming on. I haven’t had many swarm calls this year and I’m wondering if it’s because we had so many die-offs during the winter.

OSBA has funded a Pesticide Testing Program. This program will help offset some of the pesticide testing costs for Ohio beekeepers. To date we have not had any beekeepers take us up on the offer. Due to this lack of participation, and also from general information garnered from beekeepers around the state, it sounds as though bee kills due to pesticides were more limited this year.

Thanks to Tim Arheit and Terry Lieberman-Smith, the OSBA 2013 Summer Conference was a huge success. Guernsey Noble Beekeepers, our hosting association for the meeting did a great job as well. Many timely sessions were presented. The surveys were very positive as to the presenters and to the subjects covered.

OSBA will have a 50’ by 100’ tent at the Ohio State Fair again this year. Thanks to Zale Maxwell and David Crawford, the contract has been negotiated and signed. Nina Bagley, who is in charge of all the scheduling and events, is just about finished. This is a real opportunity for OSBA to reach out to the public. The dates for the tent and displays are July 28th thru August 4th. Please stop by and visit if you are at the fair. We are currently collecting local association banners to hang in our tent. Contact me at johngeorge706@gmail.com with information about displaying your association’s banner in our tent.

A huge Thanks goes to Tri-County Beekeepers Association for donating $1,500.00 for the Ohio State Fair tent. This funding goes a long way toward covering our costs and is very much appreciated.

The Honey Judging at the Ohio State Fair will be held on July 24th. Jim Thompson and John Grafton will be the judges this year. The entries have been registered by June 20th. Students who attended the OSBA Honey Judging class in February and want to shadow Jim or John during the judging must contact them prior to the event. It’s my understanding, that they each will allow 2 individuals to join them. You can reach Jim at 330-669-3352 or John at 740-543-3067.

The Lithopolis Honeyfest will be held on September 6th and 7th. In previous years, the Honeyfest was held on Saturday only. OSBA has had a tent and gives out honey samples. We need several volunteers to staff the tent. Please call John George at 614-376-3040 if you can help. Thanks By the number of queen rearing classes given, there seems to be strong support toward Ohio produced queens and over wintering Ohio produced queens. This is great news for all the beekeepers in Ohio. Please support our Queen producers in Ohio and keep this momentum going.

It’s time to start thinking about the election of officers at our Annual meeting in November. The President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer terms expire on December 31st of this year. There are also 3 Directors positions that expire at the end of the year as well. They are the “Top of Ohio”, the “Erie Basin” and the “Maumee Valley” regions. If you are interested in running for any of these offices or you know someone who would make a good candidate, please contact Dwight Wilson at 419-722-1953.

Respectfully,

John George
Calling November Election Nominees

Tim Arheit

The terms of the OSBA Executive Officers and 3 District Directors will expire at the end of 2013. The elections at the 2013 OSBA Fall Conference will determine who will fill these positions starting in 2014. OSBA is looking for nominees for the positions listed below. OSBA members, including the current member filling the position, may run for the office. Those interested in running should contact Dwight Wilson at djlwilson@aol.com.

Below is a brief description and duties of the offices that are up for November 2nd election. This is not intended to be a complete list of duties and additional duties may be defined by the OSBA Constitution. Anyone interested in running for a position should feel free to ask existing Board Members any questions about the job and review the job description on the OSBA website.

Executive Officers (2 year terms)

President - Administers the affairs of OSBA including setting and presiding over meetings, appointing all committees, appoint Regional Representatives and Newsletter Editor. The President also acts as a delegate to organizations OSBA is a member of or may appoint a representative.

Vice-President - Performs the duties of the President during any absence. The Vice-President also is the chairman of the Convention Planning Committee.

Secretary - Responsible for keeping minutes of meetings. The Secretary must also maintain the membership list, mail renewal notices, membership packets, etc.

Treasurer - Maintains the financial records and detailed records of all assets of OSBA. The Treasurer must also pay all bills, deposit any payments received and participate in an audit of the books.

Regional Directors (3 year terms) - Represents beekeepers from their region and works with local associations to promote the purposes of OSBA and cooperation with OSBA within their region. Representatives are also required to report regularly to the Board of Directors on activities in their region. Regional Directors must reside in the region they are representing:

Top of Ohio (Mercer, Auglaize, Hardon, Darke, Miami, Shelby, Logan, Union, Champaign, and Clark counties)

Maumee Valley (Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Defiance, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Hancock, Van Wert and Allen counties)

Erie Basin (Wood, Ottawa, Sandusky, Erie, Seneca, Huron, Wyandot, Crawford, Richland, and Ashland county)

In addition to the duties listed above, all OSBA Board Members are responsible for attending Board Meetings and the right to voice their opinion and vote on any matters brought before the Board. Board Members may also be appointed to committees and would be responsible for fulfilling the task or goal assigned to the committee. In a recent survey of existing Board Members, most indicated they spent 10 to 30 hours per month fulfilling their duties with OSBA.

The 4th Quarter OSBA Newsletter list of names of those people who are running for OSBA office, along with an absentee ballot for those OSBA members who want to vote and are unable to attend the voting 2013 OSBA Fall Conference.
What is OSBA

OSBA is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote beekeeping in the state of Ohio. OSBA has a Board of Directors made up of 23 voting members. Eighteen of these members represent each of the nine regions of Ohio. They are the people who represent the membership and your region in all votes taken by the OSBA board regarding business of OSBA. You need to get to know your representatives.

The duties of the Director as listed by the Constitution:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OSBA Fall Conference— Mark Your Calendars!

By now many of you are probably kicking yourselves for not having attended the OSBA Summer Conference in Cambridge, Ohio. The great location, interesting speakers, variety of topics, and the hands-on apiary were popular with all of the attendees.

Now is the time to mark your calendar to ensure that you have reserved Saturday, November 2nd for the OSBA 2013 Fall Conference, this year at a brand-new location. The contract has not yet been signed, but I will tell you that this new location has easy access, spacious classrooms, large vendor area, and…a computer lab.

We are thrilled to announce that our scheduled speakers include: Keynote Speaker Phil Craft (philcrafthivecraft.com) and our Guest Speaker Michael Bush (www.bushfarms.com) Both of these gentlemen will share with our Fall Conference attendees a wealth of beekeeping knowledge.

Our vendor area will be spacious, just as it was in Cambridge. You will have plenty of time to browse, chat with vendors, and purchase equipment. Remember to order ahead so you can save lots of money by not having to pay shipping and handling.

We are gearing up for a great OSBA Fall Conference, and you won’t want to miss this one! Keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and our electronic communication “Bee Brief”, for more details over the next few weeks. We will be taking on-line registration again for this event.
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.
On April 29, 2013, an apiary was established on North Bass Island, perhaps for the first time ever. Two packages were picked up from Queen Right Colonies that morning. After making a trip by car to Griffing Sandusky Airport, the bees flew to their new home on North Bass Island aboard a single-engine airplane. The bees were installed in the two new hives not far from the Lake Erie shoreline.

The hives are owned by John Petry and Randy Digges, both of whom are new to beekeeping. A North Bass Island Township Trustee, who has lived on North Bass Island for nearly 70 years, says that he cannot recall anyone ever keeping bees on the island. So it may be a first. We have been checking the bees periodically since they were installed, and they appear to be doing quite well.
New beekeeping devices have a way of coming into existence to meet a particular need, then passing quietly into history due to disuse or losing their usefulness because something else serves the original purpose. Sometimes beekeeping conditions or human perspectives change so that beekeepers choose a different way to address the purpose of the original invention. Two such devices are the entrance guard, or entrance excluder, and drone trap.

Trying to stop swarming has been with beekeepers ever since the number of swarms a hive emitted ceased to be the measure of a “good” hive. That was back before the invention of the centrifugal extractor made killing the bees unnecessary when harvesting the honey. It was thought that keeping the queen from leaving the hive would prevent the loss of the queen and bees in a swarm resulting in bees that could be used to replenish the colonies killed when harvesting honey. The device was made by fastening queen excluder material in a wooden frame that could be attached over the front of the hive entrance through which it was thought a queen could not get through. That would effectively keep her and the swarm at home but allow workers to come and go normally.

The truth is some queens were able to pass through the excluder bars due to her reduced size as a result of the diet she was put on prior to the swarm issuing. The entrance guards also had the nasty habit of keeping drones from exiting the hive and they would often die and pile up at the entrance.

A more recent usefulness of the entrance guard developed when the package bee industry came into existence. The guard was used to keep the packages bees and queen from absconding shortly after the package was installed. By keeping the queen from leaving the package bees would often settle down and develop into a profitable colony. Another option was to put a queen excluder on the bottom board under the super in which the package was installed.

Sometimes beekeepers found it desirable to rid the hive of drones which resulted in the development of what was called the drone trap. The drone trap added an additional chamber above the entrance guard containing conical escapes which allowed drones to pass into it from behind the entrance guard but not be able to leave the hive. This had the additional benefit of catching queens which may try to leave the hive.

Entrance guards are still available through some bee supply companies as pictured below. A drone trap also pictured below seems to be a thing of the past.

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Wanted:

Information on Drone Congregation Yards…

contact Roy at 440.279.0035
Insights for Local Association Leaders

Kim Flottum

Terry, the OSBA Newsletter Editor, asked about member retention in a bee association...a good question. If you don't know already, how many people took your beginner's class this spring and are still coming to meetings? What about last year...or five years ago? I'll bet the retention rate for the first year is moderately high, and for those five or more years...the loss is pretty steep. Why is that?

If you haven't, take a survey. Do a mailing to those that haven't renewed membership. It'll cost you a couple of renewal member's dues to pay for the postage (put in a postage paid envelope for the return and your return rate goes way, way up) to find out. And a couple of hours. There's the rub...those couple of hours...who's hours are they? Volunteers are so hard to find, and keep.

At the same time, ask current members why they still come...what do they get out of your meetings that motivates them to hurry supper, rush to the meeting and spend time away from family and home chores. That's important information. No less important than when folks took that beginner's class two years ago...and were never seen again.

This fall, take those surveys...they will be very, very informational. They will help design your beginner's class next spring, information on your web page, and in your newsletter. We far, far too often do what we know, and what we want as leaders in an association, failing to remember way back when, when we were still more confused than certain, and more scared than confident.

Think of this. A new member takes the class and becomes a member...oh, if you take the class you are automatically a member, right? You get the newsletter, included in special mailings, work the fair, get invited to the field day? That's critical. But more importantly, if you just have a meeting, that person has, at the very most, 12 meetings to attend in that first year, usually less, and sometimes a lot less. Remember your first day on a new job? After 8 hours you knew where the bathroom was. After 3 days, where the breakroom was, and after a week, where the rest of your stuff was...a week is 40 hours, a beekeeper's meeting time is about 20 hours in a year...3 days at your new job. Give these folks a break...they're just getting started and trying figure out how to hold a hive tool and hold a frame at the same time. First, have a mentor program...that's tough to do with most groups...time is, and time is expensive. But if there's a call mentor program...someone I can call...they don't have time to come to the beginner's home, but can help on the phone...that's good. And it helps. A lot.

But here's a secret I learned from an active organization out in Connecticut. They are The BackYard Beekeepers, and they have a trick I stole completely for our Medina group. Each month they have an early meeting...Beginner's Only. Two or three or more long timers show up, and anybody that has a question comes and asks those questions that always seem a bit embarrassing or there's never enough time at the regular meeting with a speaker and minutes and other reports. But when everybody is in the same boat it's not so bad. So the questions come fast and quick and faster and quicker. And, if you're smart, in the newsletter you'll announce that the Beginner's Class, which meets for a half hour BEFORE the regular meeting, will cover these topics and any questions you won't believe how many folks will show up for a meeting just for them. Long timers too, will come because the world of bees is changing, and in some ways we are all beginners.

So this year...take some surveys...find out why some don't show, and some always do. And find a way...somehow, to accommodate those who have the questions THEY think are dumb, and we all know are the questions we all want answered. Keep it separate, away from the group both in space and time and you'll get a lot accomplished...and I'll bet, keep a lot of those beginner's coming back.
Bee on the Lists and
a Short Tour of the OSBA Website! Part II

Last month’s article covered the first row of tabs on the OSBA website. There is even more information in our second row of tabs.

Under the Resources Tab, you will find important documents such as the Best Management Practices Guidelines. This tab also includes information on Queen rearing, Ohio apiary laws, Ohio FAQs sheets (some of this information from the ODA may be dated), and a guideline of what to do if you suspect a pesticide kill.

The Training Program Tab contains the list and links for all of those great video segments produced by John Grafton and Dr. Jim Tew. For those of you who like even more freebies, there is a link to a downloadable book by Dr. Tew in this tab. While there are many free videos available on YouTube, some of that free information can get you in a lot of trouble. John Grafton and Dr. Tew are reliable sources of excellent beekeeping information.

The Newsletter Tab lists all of the newsletters going back all the way to 1888. Not necessarily a complete list, but you’ll get to see how the newsletter has evolved for over 100 years. You will also see how the organization has grown throughout the years. Our OSBA Historian, Jim Thompson, compiled the historical newsletters.

The Master Beekeeper Tab lists OSBA Master Instructors, an overview of the OSBA Certified Master Beekeeper Program, a constantly updated Approved Classes list, and all the forms you’ll ever need to enter the program.

The Books Tab contains a few of the many digitized books from the library of Dana Stahlman. More books will available for download or online reading later this year.

Dana was also instrumental in providing the PowerPoint presentations available on our PowerPoint Tab. If you have any presentations that you would like to share, please send them to Tim our hide our webmaster so that he may post them for use around the state of Ohio and beyond.

Our Pictures Tab is just an overview of many OSBA activities and other beekeeping interests. If you wish to submit any pictures for this tab please submit them to webmaster@OhioStatebeekeepers.org.

Of special interest to many beekeepers is the Classified Tab, with its lists of queen-nuc-packages suppliers, pollination providers, discounts available to our members, and of course advertisements.
Ohio Beekeeping

**Association Corner**

The **Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers’ Association** held election of officers March 26th. The following members were elected; President: Sam Hammett; Co-VPs: Kenny Bach and Sandy Moore; Secretary: Sandy Bach; Treasurer: Teresa Wagoner.

MOVBA members recently visited Anam-Cara Apiary in Barlow, OH. Owner Sam Hammett, current MOVBA president, opened several hives and led discussions about what was found there. The purpose of the May 18th Field Day was to help new beekeepers better understand the care and maintenance of their colonies. After viewing the bee yard, members held a question/answer session and enjoyed refreshments.

MOVBA will have a booth at the WV 150th statehood celebration on June 22nd and again at the WV Honey Festival on Aug. 24th&25th. Both events will be held at the City Park in Parkersburg, WV.

Speakers are also being scheduled for the 2014 Honey Bee Expo, to be held at the end of January or beginning of February, depending on facility availability.

MOVBA member, Mike DeVaughn, has accepted the Washington County Apiary Inspector position. This will be a positive for the association, as Mike will be available to explain the inspection process; especially for new members.

**Medina County Beekeepers** held a Field Day at the home of Buzz and Nancy Riopelle. The topic of the day was “Things You Can’t Learn in a Book or Classroom”. MCBA’s multi-day Guest Speaker in June was Dan Purvis. Dan used to be a commercial queen producer.

**Miami Valley Beekeepers** hosted a bee booth at the very popular Troy Strawberry Festival. Association members shared beekeeping information with the general public, and sold lots of MVBA honey. The association also hosts monthly Fun-Days at the MVBA Apiary at Brukner Nature Center. Experienced beekeepers guide new-bees during the hands-on hive inspections.

The **Butler County Beekeepers Association** is currently prepping for the 160th Butler County Fair. This is becoming an annual focal point to work with supporting organizations, help educate the public and to promote beekeeper entries for the Honey Exhibit and competition. This year the honey exhibit is on the cover of the Fairbook for the first time in 160 years!

A newly electrified extractor has been made available to BCBA members through the ingenuity and hard work of two association members: Rodger Butner and Ken Miller. BCBA is looking to host the 2nd annual extraction party where members bring their supers to the meeting facility and enjoy the education and camaraderie of proper honey extraction techniques. Work is ongoing to build an improved solar, wax melter for association use. Detailed plans will be made available to other associations.

Please see the following links for additional information.

http://butlercountybeekeepers.com


http://pets.group.yahoo.com/group/ButlerCountyBeekeepers

**Publication Discounts**

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

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

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Cavity Size:

Research indicates that bees prefer or select nesting cavities with a volume of 1.0 to 1.5 ft³, or roughly the area of a five frame nuc box up to a full depth hive body. However, proper cavity size alone isn’t enough to attract a potential swarm, some form of bait or attractant, such as a dark brood comb is also acquired. To avoid cross combing, fill out the remainder of the box with drawn comb or foundation. In general, swarms, particularly prime swarms (the first large swarm) do an excellent job of drawing foundation, so don’t hesitate to use it in abundance.

Entrance Size:

Cavity entrance size is one of the more critical aspects of swarms trapping. The maximum preferred entrance size is approximately 1.5 to 2.5 square inches, or slightly larger than a golf ball. Entrance shape is not important. This size entrance is easily achieved by reducing the standard three-quarter inch bottom entrance opening down to about 2 inches in length.

Height:

The last major consideration is the height of the bait box. While swarms will occupy boxes at any height, including those sitting directly on the ground, the success rate improves as the height of the box is raised. The ideal height is around 15 feet. The problem is, 15 feet is a bit high for all but the bravest of souls. Realistically, 6 to 8 feet should be sufficient. A free swarm isn’t worth a broken leg, so be careful.

Miscellaneous Information:

The hive should be set out well ahead of the swarming season to allow scout bees ample time to locate and investigate the situation. Avoid placing beehives in direct sunlight. Instead, locate the hive in a well shaded, but highly visible area, preferably with the entrance facing a south or southwesterly direction. Swarms apparently prefer a degree of isolation, so place your bait hives at least 300 feet from other established colonies. Once established, it’s more Malta Sea Scout bees routinely inspecting the site. The observance of incoming pollen signifies the swarm has taken up residence. Once bees have taken up residence, it is imperative the colony be lowered and moved to another location before gains too much additional weight.

Bait hive support:

As stated above, the height of the bait hive has a definite bearing on the overall success or capture rate. While 15 feet is the ideal height, common sense to take that 6 to 8 feet is far more practical. With that thought in mind, I devised a simple hive stand that can be used in virtually any situation. Use standard 2x4 inch lumber to build an 18 x 18 inch square base. With a couple of 3 inch or longer deck screws, attach the base to an established vertical support, such as a tree, a fence post, or the side of the building. For additional vertical strength, attach a second 2x4 directly below the original attachment point. The opposite side of the base is supported by a length of 2 x 4 running from the ground up. Good luck!
This is my fourth year as the Bee Inspector for Fairfield County. It has been both fun and adventurous. I took over the position when Roger Miller retired as the Fairfield County Bee Inspector. Roger taught me how to do the inspections and gave me the best advice about the job. He explained that the job was really about helping fellow beekeepers. We inspectors are not the “Bee Police”, our function is more akin to “Bee Doctor”. Inspectors are here to exchange knowledge with other beekeepers to teach and to learn. Many people don’t understand the inspection process and some don’t trust inspectors, after all, most of us mistrust what we don’t understand. People may not personally know their inspector and they may not have been present when the inspection was conducted, compounding this distrust.

Most inspectors have full-time jobs and therefore conduct inspections during their available time. They are not always able to make appointments with the beekeepers, due to their schedules and the sheer number of inspections that must be conducted each bee season. Also let’s not forget that the weather plays a major role in when the inspections can be done.

The purpose of the inspection process is to prevent the spread of bee diseases. AFB and EFB are currently at low percentages in the state of Ohio. States without the inspection process have seen a dramatic increase in the spread of AFB and a decline in honey bee populations. All bees coming into or going out of the state must be inspected and certified disease-free. This process protects the beekeepers and the honeybee industry as a whole. The bee inspectors are looking for the signs and symptoms of diseases and pests that plague the honey bees. Through early detection most issues can be treated. The greatest threat to honeybees in Ohio at this time is the Varroa mite, Hive Beetles and Wax Moths, but we must always remain vigilant against Foul Brood and Africanized Honey Bees.

When the County Bee Inspector comes out to visit your apiary, she or he will come to the house introduce themselves, then go about inspecting the hives much in the same ways you might visit your bees. Watching the bees entering and leaving the hive, a lot can be determined by watching the outside of the hive, about the health of the hive to the overall strength of the colony. An examination of the brood chambers is conducted, checking for the health of the bees and brood, the signs and symptoms of viruses and diseases, good brood patterns and food stores. An assessment of the hive is made and the results written on the examination certificate that is sent into the state inspector’s office. A copy is left with or mailed to the beekeeper. To ensure that no viruses or diseases are spread from field to field the Inspector’s equipment is thoroughly cleaned before leaving the bee yard. Beekeepers should also clean their hive tools after working with their hives. Bleach and a Chore Boy (brand) stainless steel scrubby cleans away even the thickest of propolis while also killing germs (be careful to wear eye protection when using bleach).

For some beekeepers the only information they obtain about beekeeping and diseases comes from their County Inspector or County Extension Office. With today’s busy schedules it can be challenging to almost impossible for beekeepers to attend meetings, seminars and classes. OSBA and many of the local beekeeping associations provide a variety of educational opportunities on line as well as through their lending libraries providing a range of information in many different media formats to help the busy beekeeper. The Ohio Department of Agriculture’s web site under the Apiary section provides a vast wealth of information on beekeeping and contact information for the county and state inspectors.

Working with beekeepers has been a most enlightening experience as it provides an opportunity to witness the many different ways to keep bees that are possible. I’ve witnessed new products being used that either available through bee supply companies, or are invented by clever beekeepers. There are nearly as many ways to keep bees as there are beekeepers. Doing inspections is very rewarding because of the wonderful people I meet. I wish I had more time to spend with them but with so many inspections to do I must hurry on our way to complete the inspections of all the registered hives in our counties.

Unfortunately some counties do not have inspectors either due to budgetary cut-backs or the fact that the counties have been unable to find anyone who is both qualified and interested in being an inspector. Experienced beekeepers that enjoy bees and other beekeepers should consider becoming a county inspector. Yes it is a lot of work for a little money, but we inspectors don’t do it for the financial gain, we do it for the love of honey bees and the fellowship it offers. If you would be interested in filling one of the openings you should contact our State Inspector Barb Bloetscher for more information.

If you live in a county that does not have an inspector you should contact your county commissioners and see if it
An age old problem for beekeepers wanting more hives of bees is how to do it. There are many ways to go about increasing colonies of bees. One must remember that an investment in time and money is required for each hive to be added to your work load. I would highly recommend that you visit http://wvbeekeeper.blogspot.com/ to take a look at Cass Cohenour’s blog of beekeeping information.

The art of beekeeping has relied so much on new research into keeping honey bees alive that many old techniques of beekeeping have been overlooked. Making increases of hive colonies is a topic of great interest. There are many ways to accomplish this goal, from making dirty splits to using just one frame of bees in a nuc to get a new colony. In his seconded edition of “Manual of the Apiary” published in 1878 Albert John Cook explains how he made splits which he calls divides.

His method involved raising his own queens -- to have them on hand when he was ready to make divides. He made up nucs during swarming time from strong hives to control his swarming problems. He would take out three or four frames from the strong hive selecting swarm cells to place in a nucleus and replace the removed frames from the swarm hive with new. He called this artificial swarming. He prepared hives (needed equipment for the new hives) during the winter. These hives or nucleus hives would raise a queen and when the time to divide arrived, these nucleus hives would be ready for the divide (splitting process). His motto was “keep all colonies strong.” He did not consider the nucleus hives a split but a hive that would have a queen ready when time to divide arrived. Keep in mind that swarms issue usually during the month of April or May when nectar used to produce brood comes into the hive in large amounts and ends up being used to feed young larva to produce the bee population that will gather the honey crop. Also during this period, brood chambers become honey bound (meaning that bees begin to store nectar in cells that contained brood and thus, reduce the number of cells available for eggs – one of the major reasons for a hive of bees to decide to swarm. By removing a frame of capped brood and replacing it with a new frame, the bees would have something to work on, and the queen would have a place to lay eggs.

To avoid the problem of additional swarming, Cook would remove frames of capped brood – often one or two frames a week from strong colonies and add these frames to his queen right nucleus hives. In no time at all, nucleus hives would have full frames of capped brood which translates into large bee populations. Thus, he was preventing swarming – using what the bees were doing naturally to make a man-made artificial hive to receive queen cells with frames that opened up the brood chamber so the hive could continue to expand without swarming and then removing capped brood to add to the nucleus hive making it as strong as any colony in his bee yard and ready when the honey flow started. New queens and large populations of bees produce honey crops.

In the 1870’s the U.S. did not have a package bee industry, or much of a queen industry. Some people were raising queens for sale but usually later in the season. Getting swarm cells was the standard way to raise a queen and getting bees was a matter of finding a swarm. But if one managed bees as Cook recommended, a beekeeper could produce a honey crop from planned increases by using the natural biology of the honey bee. Of course, you needed a strong hive of bees that naturally wanted to swarm.

The difference between Cook’s method and many methods used today is that Cook never split a hive to make two equal divisions. Cook would never have considered a hive with six frames of brood as strong enough to give up three frames of brood and bees. He would have added bees and brood to any weaker hive and requeen. Later- brood and bees would be added until the nucleus hive would become no longer a nucleus hive but a full standard productive hive.

I adapted Cooks methods when I kept bees in Georgia. I raised queens (grafted queen cells rather than swarm queen cells) and with approximately 600 hives, I was able to make up a number of new hives each and every week to use to shake bees for package bees I sold in Ohio. The method was simple. I would take one frame of capped brood from nine different hives starting in early spring, add a mated queen, and give the bees several weeks to adjust to the new hive and add a medium super. The hives from which I took the one frame helped with my swarming control problems and the new hives were ready to shake bees from in April. For every nine hives I had, I could build up a new single deep hive flowing with wall to wall bees. Many commercial beekeepers needing more hives for pollination use the same technique – sometimes not even adding a queen just before the bees are put on pollination – the reason being that the bees doing the pollination are already in the hive – remember it takes an egg for a worker bee twenty one days to develop and emerge from the cell the egg was laid in. Eggs and capped brood are not pollinators. And in 70% of the hives made up in this way queens are raised by the...
How to Grow...(Continued from page 15)

bees under the emergency queen response and the hive remains pro-
ductive for later pollination and honey production.

New weak hives to increase hive numbers is not cost effective. Many
of them will not survive the winter if expected to build up for the next
year. Why not get a honey crop this year (add to your income) and
make increases that really count. I hope this article gives you some
ideas and thought on making your own increases. There is a lot to
learn from old books no longer in print.

Editor’s Note: For those who would like to read The Manual of the
Apiary by John Albert Cook, a free copy is available at:
http://archive.org/details/cu31924003717596

New OSBA Life Members

The following beekeepers have shown their support of OSBA by
becoming Life Members. Life Membership consists of a one-time
payment to OSBA of $160.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kenneth Bach</th>
<th>Donald Jones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dawn Brannan - Blakeney</td>
<td>James Lawrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Cameron</td>
<td>Dennis Marquart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Crock</td>
<td>William Starrett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia DeMaria</td>
<td>Eric Wagner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lois Jane Ford</td>
<td>John Waldeck Jr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>skunk cabbage</td>
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<tr>
<td>red maple</td>
<td>Acer rubrum</td>
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<td>Acer saccharum, A. negundo, A. pennsylvanum, Acer spp.</td>
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<td>Ulmus americana</td>
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<td>Siberian elm, Eng-</td>
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<td>European alder</td>
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<td>serviceberry,</td>
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<td>wild mustards</td>
<td>Barbarea vulgaris, Sisymbrium spp., Brassi-</td>
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<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
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<td>marsh marigold or cowslip</td>
<td><em>Caltha palustris</em></td>
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<td>Virginia bluebells</td>
<td><em>Mertensia virginica</em></td>
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<td>tansy-mustard</td>
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<td>Miami mist</td>
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<td>common hackberry</td>
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<td><em>Phacelia bipinnatifida</em>, <em>P. dubia</em></td>
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<td>chokecherry</td>
<td><em>Prunus virginiana</em></td>
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<td><em>Malus coronaria</em></td>
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<td>autumn olive, Russian olive</td>
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<td>henbit</td>
<td><strong>Lamium amplexicaule</strong></td>
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<td>dame’s rocket</td>
<td><strong>Hesperis matronalis</strong></td>
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<td>empress tree</td>
<td><strong>Paulownia tomentosa</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Glechoma hederacea</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nyssa sylvatica</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Rhamnus frangula</strong>, <strong>R. cathartica</strong></td>
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<td>alderleaf buckthorn, lance-leaf buckthorn</td>
<td><strong>Rhamnus alnifolia</strong>, <strong>R. lanceolata</strong></td>
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<td>horse-chestnut</td>
<td><strong>Aesculus hippocastanum</strong></td>
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<td>Ohio buckeye</td>
<td><strong>Aesculus glabra</strong></td>
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<td>yellow buckeye</td>
<td><strong>Aesculus flavus</strong></td>
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<td>black locust</td>
<td><strong>Robinia pseudoacacia</strong></td>
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<td>bristly locust, clammy locust</td>
<td><strong>Robinia hispida</strong>, <strong>R. viscosa</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Rhus typhina</strong></td>
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<td>smooth sumac</td>
<td><strong>Rhus glabra</strong></td>
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<td>fragrant sumac</td>
<td><strong>Rhus aromaticus</strong></td>
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<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
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<td>fragrant sumac</td>
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<td>yellowwood</td>
<td>Cladrastis kentukea</td>
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<td>tulip poplar, yellow poplar, or tulip-tree</td>
<td>Liriodendron tulipfera</td>
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<td>Zizia aurea, Z. aptera</td>
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<td>Maryland figwort or carpen-ter's square</td>
<td>Scrophularia marilandica</td>
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<td>Lupinus perennis</td>
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<td>Amorpha fruticosa</td>
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<td>wild indigo or false indigo</td>
<td>Baptisia alba, B. australis, B. tinctoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>lance-leaf figwort</td>
<td>Scrophularia lanceolata</td>
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<td>tickseeds or coreopsis</td>
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<td>common privet</td>
<td>Ligustrum vulgare</td>
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<td>basswood /American linden</td>
<td>Tilia americana</td>
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<tr>
<td>catalpa, cigar tree</td>
<td>Catalpa speciossa</td>
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<tr>
<td>common St. John’s-wort</td>
<td>Hypericum perforatum</td>
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</table>
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OSBA DVD of On-Line Training Videos for Your Association

OSBA created a DVD that contains the 34 educational on-line training videos from Dr. Tew and John Grafton (http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping_class/). This 2 DVD set is comprised of 34 detailed training videos that address practical aspects of elementary beekeeping. The video clips are short, 3-9 minutes in length, but provide concise information on the subject matter. The videos may be used chronologically or independently. Additionally, two slide presentations are provided as supplementary learning tools.

Hosted by: Dr. Jim Tew, who served for more than 35 years as the State Specialist for The Ohio State University and is presently the State Extension beekeeping Specialist for Auburn University, and John Grafton, a life-long beekeeper and Past OSBA President who served as the Ohio Department of Agriculture State Apiarist for 34 years.

Many people requested a DVD version since high-speed internet is not always available, and since many associations wanted to use these videos for training during association meetings.

In order to better help associations provide this training to beekeepers, OSBA is giving each club their own copy for FREE! That’s right, every beekeeping association in the state of Ohio will have its own “A Web-Based Introductory Beekeeping Training Program” DVD for their association library.

Contact your OSBA Director or Representative to get your associations’ free dvd.

An Inspector’s Point of View (Continued from page 14)

might be possible to get the funding necessary to fill the position of an County Bee Inspector in your county. Bee associations can also assist with this effort. If your county does have an inspector take a few minutes out of your busy day to send a thank you note to your county commissioners to thank them for supporting beekeeping in your county. A pint of honey to remind them why we do this wouldn’t hurt either.
Telling the Bees

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

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

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

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

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

Joseph L. DeFranco, Wyandot County, Ohio bee inspector for 15 years, died on June 7, 2013. Joe was a wonderful character, fond of saying that if he didn’t know the answer to a honeybee question, it wasn’t something worth knowing. And that was pretty much true.

When inspecting hives, he would give the bees the smallest puff of smoke, then gently open the hive. The "girls" as he called them would never get excited but just continued their work as he looked over the frames. Then he would gently shoo any that were on the inner cover back down before closing the hive. Joe dispensed relevant help and knowledge as he inspected the bees although he never gave advice, just suggestions.

Joe is survived by his wife Patricia, six children, eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two sisters and a brother. We will all miss his wisdom and optimistic outlook on life.
Like most people, I don’t have money to burn. I want to make my expenditures go as far as possible for as long as possible. That means purchasing wisely, and maintaining the item throughout its life.

Purchasing wisely means price shopping and buying at the right time. For instance, purchasing items when they go on sale. Purchasing a large volume of items and then splitting the purchase with other beekeepers, and everyone gets a part of the savings. Pre-ordering at conferences and other events so that you can save money on shipping and handling. I was giving a marketing presentation to an association and talked about the fact that while you can purchase Mason jars in the store, it will cost you more than if you purchase them through a vendor. My cost for a quart jar was about $.30 per jar glass than if you bought in a store. Therefore, I can make more money than a beekeeper who doesn’t plan ahead and runs to the store for honey containers.

You can save a lot of money if you plan ahead and know what your needs are. Some people keep a running inventory of their beekeeping equipment so they know immediately if they are running low on things like foundation, wire, or frames. It doesn’t take that long to set up a spreadsheet or even just a checklist near where you keep your inventory. Very little is more frustrating than running to build a whole box of frames because suddenly you want to split a hive, only to find out that you only have six frames left. I’m sure there’s some sort of inventory app that will help you monitor your inventory.

It’s always nice to be able to repurpose items. My “newest” solar wax melter, was picked up along the side of the road because someone threw out a perfectly good Coleman cooler. Their garbage will make me money by providing my customers with perfectly clean wax. All those corrugated plastic political signs will keep my girls cozy during the winter months when I use them as slides under the screened bottom boards. Cheap or almost free mason jars from either the thrift store large sales will help feed my bees should I need to provide them sugar water anytime this year.( I can also just use them to feed my bees water during drought spells).

A beekeeper I know, Bill Procuniar, showed me a very creative way to create a portable windbreak. He took

---

**No Teaspoons Allowed**

*recipes that really use honey*

Smooth, creamy, cool, slightly-sweet, and EASY...what more could you want from a perfect summer dessert?

**A Honey of a Panna Cotta**

1 c. heavy cream
1 T. sugar
1/2 envelope unflavored gelatin (a scant 1 1/2 T)
1 5.3 oz. container of vanilla greek yogurt
1/3 c. honey
Fresh fruit

1. Mix 1/4 c. water with the gelatin. Let it soften.
2. In a large bowl whisk yogurt and honey.
3. In a medium saucepan bring cream and sugar to a boil. Remove from heat and let sit for a minute or two. Then add gelatin mixture and whisk until smooth.
4. Add warm mixture to the yogurt-honey blend.
5. Divide into 4 serving containers (I like parfait or other type of bar glass). Let it chill in the fridge for a few hours.

Garnish with fresh fruit!
Bee Ambassador

Summer is officially upon us and many of you will find yourselves on vacations and or visiting far away family members. There is a certain frenzy that comes with traveling and you most likely have to wear a lot of hats to have a successful and relaxing trip. Might you consider one more hat/role - that of a roving “bee ambassador”? Let me explain.

Like many of you I have family and friends throughout the U.S. as well as other countries. I have found myself in the past few years making a conscious effort to reach out to fellow beekeepers where ever my travels take me. In fact I now plan certain "family vacations" around various beekeeping events. Though various family members have different versions of the story, it all started innocently.

After enough bad weather, cabin fever, etc.; my usual fallback activities of reading every magazine and newspaper in the respective houses left me antsy. Like our honey bees, if confined too long due to inclement weather I will admit I was getting ... difficult to be around. I had decided to look up the local beekeeping group on the internet. Low and behold they were meeting that very night (and not surprisingly I was encouraged by multiple family members to go!). Long story short it was a great meeting.

As with honey bees migrating from other hives there was an initial mixed reaction to my "outsider" presence. To some I was enthusiastically welcomed like that long, lost cousin. To others I was that foreign ambassador on some clandestine mission (where exactly are you from again; and why are you here?). But once I started talking bees - we all became, well, beekeepers. Keep in mind that your very presence most likely will be a catalyst. Think honey bees: unfair and stereotypical as it sounds, drones get to come and go at will; whereas workers better have a full honeycrop if they wish to pass the guard bees. Having strained the metaphor - before you know it you will find yourself immersed in regional compare/contrast debates having everything to do with local bee strains, pest management issues, bee politics and oh so much more.

I feel a disclaimer is in order. Good advice would be to keep your family vacation priorities in mind. Do the family thing, but make time for bees. And if you are forced to choose one over the other I can only recite that old adage that says it is better to beg for bee-forgiveness than ask for bee-permission. So, as you plan your travels or simply find yourself somewhere with time on your hands - check out the local bee festivities. You'll surely be rewarded with new knowledge and new friends.

Budget Friendly..(Continued from page 24)

individual fence slats that are sold at the big box hardware stores, and using screws, he secured them to a garden hose. Each fence required two garden hoses one for top one for the bottom, and as many pieces of picket fence as you could find. He said that many of the big box stores sell them for pennies at the end of the season. You can also find them for cheap on Craigslist. He rolls up his portable fence until he needs it. When winter comes, he installs a few fence posts and tie his portable fence to it. How creative is that!

Another aspect of saving money is to keep your inventory in good shape. If you’re elasticized veil is starting to droop, just replace the elastic. Same goes for the elasticized sleeves in the long-sleeved gloves. If your bee suit (whatever you want to call your beesuit) gets torn or you burn a hole in it with your smoker, put on a patch… you certainly don’t want to create pathways for the girls to come and sting you. A smoker with a hole in the bellows just doesn’t work well, and we all know how important working smokers are when we go visit the girls. I currently have a duct tape patch on mine. Eventually I will break down and buy a new bellows, because my smoker itself is in great shape.

As the beekeeping year winds down, you will want to keep an eye on the beekeeping magazines….many vendors run sales during the holiday season…which is really just around the corner. Consider purchasing a multi-year subscription to these magazines. As a association member you will receive a discount…another great reason to be a association member.
Editor’s Note

I know it’s not Thanksgiving, but I would like to take a few paragraphs to show appreciation to all people who help support beekeeping and who don’t always receive the appropriate acknowledgment for all their work. Thank you, thank you, thank you….I don’t think we say that phrase enough today. It may only consist of two words, but the courtesy and thought behind the phrase goes a long way in today’s world. Many beekeepers have spent their time, money, and expertise in order to provide beekeepers across this state with educational and enjoyable events.

So here’s the Thank You to all the beekeepers who work in the background to help Ohio Beekeepers:

To all the people who made the OSBA Summer Conference a resounding success
To all the contributors to each and every OSBA Newsletter
To Nina Bagley and all the hours she has devoted to making our tent at the state fair a success
To the OSBA Executive Board
To the OSBA Master Beekeeper Program Committee
To the OSBA Team Logo
To the spouses of beekeepers for their patience with all our endless conversation and time spent on apiary related tasks

To all those who are working to train beekeepers and inform the public how important bees are to our way of life I appreciate all the effort, thought and time that most of the beekeepers with whom I interact put into helping other beekeepers and associations. Their conversations are littered with “we” and never “I”.

On the local level, whether its providing tasty treats at meetings, consistently producing monthly newsletters (way to go local association newsletter editors), or just showing up each month to help support your association, you all deserve a round of applause.

On the regional and state level, all the outreach time that the OSBA Directors and Representatives spend, the volunteer time spent by a few to create the Master Beekeeper Journeyman Test (thanks Bill Starrett), and all the time that many OSBAer’s have devoted to developing programs, literature and communications to help keep everyone informed. Thank you for your creativity and dedication...and unlimited long distance on your calling plans!

OSBA is quite fortunate to have many members dedicated to helping all beekeepers in our state. If you would like to be part of this enthusiastic team, then consider becoming an OSBA Director or Representative. The time you spend helping your fellow beekeeper, will be time well spent.

It’s quite a few months too early for Thanksgiving, but its always the right time to appreciate our fellow beekeepers.
2013 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION
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Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2013 Membership Form

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

For new memberships and renewals, send checks payable to OSBA with this completed form to:
Floyd Ostrowski, OSBA Secretary
3321 Buckhaven Dr.
Richfield, OH  44286

Name:  ____________________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City: _______________  State: ___  Zip:  ______________  County:  ____________________
Phone:  (______)_____-(____)_________  Email Address (Print neatly) ___________________________________________________________________
Name of Local Bee Association: ___________________________________________________________________

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

A year membership is based on the calendar year, January through December
Scenes from the OSBA Summer Conference 2013