Your OSBA Takes Over the DiSalle Pavilion at the Ohio State Fair July 27th—August 3rd

Educational Activities include:
- Bee Beards
- Honey tasting
- Smoothie Demonstration by Elena Hoffman, American Honey Princess
The ever popular Bee-way Pavilion vendors will be selling honey and bee related items including soaps and candles.

New this year:
The Bee’s Needs, customized seed collection of pollinator friendly seeds
- Tom Wood—CBS Channel 4 will be trying on a bee beard 8/2/14
- Livingston Seed will be giving away free seeds on Thursday
- Face Painting
- Honey Extracting Exhibit

Special Thanks to:
- Equipment Donations
  - Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
  - Dadant & Sons
  - Honey Run Apiaries
  - Mann Lake

Volunteer Associations
- COBA
- East COBA
- Maumee Valley Beekeepers
- Medina County Beekeepers
- Northwest Ohio Beekeepers
- Scioto Valley Beekeepers
- Stark County Beekeepers
- Tri County Beekeepers
- West COBA

A note to OSBA from Roger Myers, Maumee Valley Beekeepers President
MVB had a Field Day this past weekend and we had a young girl that is taking beekeeping as a 4-H project. .....She had a project at the state fair last year and went thru our tent and became interested in beekeeping. I thought you all would like to know. Good job everyone
President's Letter

Dear Fellow Beekeepers

The "Save The Honey Bee" license plate made a big step forward on June 4th when House Bill 474 passed in the house. A huge thank you to all those who sent in letters of support and those who responded to our last minute plea on Facebook to get the bill on the schedule for a vote before House broke session for the summer. We aren't done yet, however, and will need your help again to help push it through the Senate this fall.

The continued bee losses over the past winter nationwide have kept honey bees in the spotlight both locally and nationally. This already includes grant money targeted at improving the forage for bees and other pollinators in several states including parts of Ohio. Even the President of the United States is getting into the act calling for a Pollinator Health Task Force to study the problem and create a strategy to prevent future bee loss and in particular how to reduce exposure to pesticides. While there are no promises, I'm hopefully optimistic that this will result in additional research dollars and some positive steps reducing pesticide kills and effects of sub-lethal exposure.

Another of these efforts is the Highways Bee Act (HR 4790) which intends to increase habitat for honey bees, other pollinators and wildlife as well as save money for highway departments. You can sign the petition in support of the act at http://pollinator.org/BEEAct.htm

I have to give a huge round of thanks to the Butler County Beekeepers Association for hosting the OSBA Summer conference. They did a great job and pulled off what was probably the largest summer conference we've had to date in spite of the unexpected surprises behind the scenes. A big thanks also to Don Popp, who hosted the Friday evening picnic and tour for over 100 beekeepers. And last but not least to Terry who kept us all on schedule.

I hope to see all of you at the Fall conference in Plain City on November 1st. With the great location and incredible speakers lined up this will be the must attend event of the year! (And I promise, the bees won't be flying that day so you won't feel bad that you aren't spending it in the bee yard).

Tim Arheit
The terms of 3 District Directors will expire at the end of 2014. The elections at the 2014 OSBA Fall Conference will determine who will fill these positions starting in 2015. 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 djwilson@aol.com.

Below is a brief description and duties of the offices that are up for November 1st 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.

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. Representative 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:

- **Crossroads** (Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Mahoning, Muskingum, Stark, Tuscarawas, Wayne counties)

- **Buckeye Hills** (Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington counties)

- **Western Reserve** (Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit and Trumbull counties)

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.

### A Banner Day for Your Association

Promote your Association at the Ohio State Fair!

We would like to have your **club's banner** or flag to hang in the pavilion during the fair. We have thousands of people stopping by our Pavilion during the fair. This is a great opportunity to get your club some notice, and maybe some new members. Banners will be returned immediately following the fair by U.S. Mail. If you would like to help, contact Nina Bagley at 614.783.7868 or ninabagley@me.com.
OSBA Conference—Mark Your Calendars!

Although it seems a long way off, our November 1 conference at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City, Ohio, is going to be another absolutely amazing event that you will want to attend. Our current lineup of Guest Speakers includes Sue Cobey and Mike Palmer (check them out on Youtube), and from The Ohio State University, Reed Johnson and our good friend, Dr. Jim Tew.

We are also working on designing computer sessions to help in your beekeeping business.

Consider entering some hive products in our ever popular Honey Judging event... details of the entry categories will soon be available. A wide variety of vendors will be on hand to help you keep busy over the winter building equipment! Plus our ever popular Silent Auction Table....loaded with great bee-related items.

New OSBA Life Members

The following beekeepers have shown their support of OSBA by becoming Life Members. Life Membership consists of a one-time payment to OSBA of $200.

Marlene & Bruce Chilote
Chris Dresel
Reinhold Krueger
Duane & Patty Zorger

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Email waldobee@msn.com
Website www.waldobees.com
Did You?

Did you have the opportunity to attend the OSBA Summer Conference hosted by the Butler County Beekeepers in Oxford Ohio? What? You Didn’t. Well, I must admit, you missed the boat. Here’s just a taste of the event—

- Tour of Don Popp’s commercial facility— Thanks Don! Careful we don’t take a cute poodle home.
- Great food and fellowship at the picnic
- Large selection of friendly vendors
- Yum! Donuts for Breakfast
- Handmade Quilt Auction
- Silent Auction Table
- Gadgets & Gizmos — What creativity
- Microscopy with Zachary Huang— up close and personal with the bees
- Jerry Hayes
- Keith Delaplane
- Denise Ellsworth
- Chia Hua Lin
- Beeothecary— Jeannie and Laurie
- Joe Kovaleski
- Alex Zomchek
- Bee Races! Yes we have a winner
- Hands-On Demonstrations with Ralph Johnston
- Master Beekeeper Apprentice Testing
- Those Ohio Save The Honey Bee T-shirts
- Pin your location on the map— who else is from my area?
- Brushy Mountain, Dadant, Modern Beekeeping, Reid’s Apiary & Bee-tique, Simpson’s Bee Supply
- Quick— Can you name the “Bee Racers?” (check out the front page of our website for answers!)

Emergency Assistance Available for Honey Bees Through FSA

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized emergency assistance for eligible honey bee producers through the USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey bees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). In order to meet the eligibility requirements for ELAP benefits for honey bee colony, hive and feed losses, the losses must be the direct result of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including but not limited to, colony collapse disorder (CCD) (colony loss only), earthquake, eligible winter storm (colony loss only), excessive wind, flood, hurricane, lightning and tornado.

The losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. ELAP provides assistance for the loss of honey bee colonies in excess of normal mortality (17.5 percent). Eligible honey bees include bees housed in a managed hive and used for honey production, pollination or honey bee production.

Producers who suffered eligible honey bee losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For honey bee colony and hive losses, the participant must include proof of inventory at the beginning of the program year and ending inventory immediately after the eligible adverse weather event or loss condition. For honey bee colony losses due to CCD, the participant must provide proof that best management practices are being followed, such as honey bee colonies are provided proper nutrition, preventative treatment for varroa mites and disease, proper maintenance of hive equipment and proper colony management, and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility.

In addition to submitting an application for payment, producers who suffered honey bee losses should submit a notice of loss to the local FSA service center that maintains the farm records for their business; however, if the local FSA service center that maintains the farm records for the honey bee producer is not in close proximity to the physical location county where the honey bee loss occurs, the honey bee producer may submit a notice of loss to the local FSA service center in the county where the loss occurred.

For further information, beekeepers should review the FSA ELAP Fact Sheet at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/elap_honey_bee_fact_sht.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/elap_honey_bee_fact_sht.pdf) and are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA county office. Please use the following link to locate an FSA office [http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=oh&agency=fsa](http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=oh&agency=fsa).
OSU Beelab Needs Your Help

Dear Ohio Beekeepers,

We would like to invite you, as a beekeeper in Ohio, to participate in a survey of springtime bee health that is being conducted by Dr. Reed Johnson in the Department of Entomology at the Ohio State University. The purpose of this study is to compare the success of honey bee colonies near crop fields with colonies away from crop fields to determine the role that crop fields play in bee deaths in April, May and June.

Do not worry if your hives aren't near crop fields - we need your survey responses too!

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time with no strings attached. If you would like to participate in the study, you will be asked to complete a brief survey about the location of your apiary in relation to nearby crop fields and the health of your honey bee colonies. The survey is estimated take 5 - 15 minutes. Your knowledge will contribute substantially to understanding how the surrounding landscape may influence the health of honey bees and we highly appreciate any feedback you can provide.

Please complete the survey by August 31, 2014.

See http://go.osu.edu/springbeesurvey if you have any questions.

OSBA Helps New Clubs Start to Buzz

Tuesday, May 20th, was marked as an exciting and informative day for beekeepers in the OSBA district of “Top of Ohio”. Following the suggestions in the OSBA New Association Guidebook, Mike Doseck and Terry Lieberman-Smith sent out postcards to registered beekeepers in the counties around St. Mary’s, to announce an informal gathering of beekeepers. Twenty-three beekeepers arrived at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Mary’s Community Library for a sharing session.

During introductions, we found that the experience level ranged from 50 years, to those interested individuals just considering beekeeping. Guest Speaker, and OSBA President, Tim Arheit gave a PowerPoint presentation about swarms and various methods of handling them. Open discussions followed about and covered topics, including queen rearing, bee species, chemical treatments, and herbicides and pesticides. Bruce Bowman, from Lima, won the door prize of a nuc box, donated by Honey Run Apiaries. Carol Forsthoefel and OSBA Representative Mike Doseck provided refreshments. Beekeepers enjoyed many discussions during the refreshment break. By a show of hands, it was unanimously determined that interest exists in holding another meeting next month at a date to be determined. Meeting dates will be the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Mike for more information: mdosohio@aol.com.

OSBA Director, Marishka Wile, from the Ohio Valley Region is looking to see if there is interest in starting a new beekeeping association in the Jackson/Vinton County area. All those interested in starting a cluster, please contact Marishka at briarrose@bright.net.

Are you an urban/suburban beekeeping in the Dayton area? We have had some interest in starting an association geared toward the needs of the urban/suburban beekeeper. If you are interested, contact OSBA Director, Alex Zomchek: ohiononey@woh.rr.com or Terry Lieberman-Smith: vice-president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org.

Looking for more great ideas for your association? Contact your OSBA Regional Director or Representatives for ideas and support.
Beekeeper of the Year Award—Accepting Nominations

At our annual fall meeting, we recognize one outstanding beekeeper that was nominated by his or her peers for their outstanding work during the past year in beekeeping. The OSBA Award Committee reviews all nominees and selects only one from the pool of candidates.

Last year, Terry Lieberman-Smith received this award. The committee chose Terry due to her unselfish work on numerous committees, her commitment to beekeeping, her dedication to OSBA, and her encouragement to students and new beekeepers.

Now is the time to take a moment and nominated beekeeper that you know who deserves recognition for all of their work. Nominations close on October 12th...so send your nominees to: OSBA Vice President Terry Lieberman-Smith at:

Vice-president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org or P.O. Box 24181, Dayton, OH 45424
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.
Immune Consequences of Insecticide Exposure from Corn Seed Treatment Dust

Rodney Richardson and Reed Johnson
Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University

With the help of OSBA funding we are investigating the effects of neonicotinoid insecticides on the immune system of the honey bee. Recent research by Genarro Di Prisco and colleagues\(^1\) has demonstrated that the neonicotinoid insecticide clothianidin suppresses the honey bee immune system at low levels of exposure, enabling the proliferation of viral infections. This may have implications for beekeepers in Ohio as recent work at Ohio State University and elsewhere has demonstrated that bee-collected pollen is often contaminated with clothianidin dust produced during corn planting\(^2\). Most pollen containing clothianidin was found to be contaminated at levels higher than the levels that have been shown to induce viral proliferation.

Though the immunosuppressive action of these insecticides has already been demonstrated, our proposed work is important and necessary. The previous research was performed on newly emerged, caged nurse bees in a laboratory setting. However, as we all know, bees do not naturally exist in the vacuum of a scientific laboratory. As such, our hope is to perfect a system in which we can study the effects at the colony level. Doing so will give a clearer picture of the effects of these chemical agents as they work in the real world. The social nature of the honey bee and their reliance on pheromone communication between individuals, castes, and developmental stages may affect the activity of neonicotinoids in important and unforeseen ways. Understanding how laboratory based bioassays correlate to colony success outcomes is an important step toward a greater understanding of how agriculturally applied pesticides are affecting honey bees.

The OSBA Summer Conference at Oxford, Ohio was held on June 7, 2014 and was hosted by Butler County Beekeepers Association. The weather could not have been any better and the building in which the conference was held was very beautiful and comfortable.

Among all the well-chosen speakers and classes offered was one that offered studying the honey bee and its anatomy with each attendee having the use of a microscope.

Associate Professor, Dr. Zachary Huang, from Michigan State University, was the instructor. Dr. Huang is also an award winning photographer whose photographs have been published in many publications, which include *American Bee Journal*, *Bee Culture*, and *Science*. Further information about Dr. Huang may be obtained at [http://bees.msu.edu/biography/](http://bees.msu.edu/biography/).

The class began with some discussion on the bee sensory body parts and then moved into the examination of many external and internal parts and organs. Dr. Huang would first demonstrate the procedure of removing the body part to be examined, with his demonstration projected from his microscope upon a screen in front of the class. Each attendee would then imitate his procedure and giving the honey bee an extremely clear and magnified view. Among the body parts examined, but not limited to, were: legs, mouth parts, wings, stinger, reproductive and digestive tracts.

The class was two hours long, but the time passed quickly, leaving the feeling for wanting more. Overall, this class was an opportunity that seldom happens and one that was an experience not soon to be forgotten. Thank you Dr. Huang, OSBA, and BCBA for this wonderful experience.

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**Beekeepers Helping Educate the Public**

Hawkin High School student Alix Prybyla hosted an evening teaching about honeybees for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Alix is headed to Colombia University in the Fall to study Environmental Science. About 50 people attended her presentation, which included posters, honey sampling, instruction in hive assembly and a panel discussion in which Roy Hendrickson and Bobbi Pincus participated in the event. Also in the panel, beekeeper Walter Jorgensen who sells his honey at the West Side Market.

The future of bees are in good hands with students like Alix taking an interest in them.

Pictured are:

Beekeeper Bobbie Pincus, Alix Prybyla, and Roy Hendrickson (Beekeeper and OSBA Guest Columnist)
OSBA Mission

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

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

Ohio Buckeye Belle™ Queens & Developing Ohio Belle™ Queens for 2015

I would like to thank those who supported Ohio Buckeye Belle Queen™ Sales in 2014. Stahlman Apiaries is a small queen rearing operation and is limited in the number of queens it can produce. Unfortunately I was not able to supply the number of queens ordered early this year. The stock has been highly selected and work is continuing on breeding future stock. Registered owners of our marked queens are encouraged to report results of the queens they own. We want to sell and produce Ohio stock which has been truly tested under all Ohio weather conditions in all areas of Ohio. If you purchased a queen with the numbered tag and feel that queen should be used in our breeding program, I will be glad to work with you and pay you a royalty on each daughter queen raised from that queen. I will continue to produce a limited number of mated queens, queen cells and virgin queens thru fall.

**Prices:**
- Mated number tagged queens $25.00 Guaranteed to be productive and gentle
- Virgin queens
  - Marked green $10.00
  - Queen cells $5.00
  - No guarantee on virgin queens or queen cells.

Email: stahlmanapiaries@aol.com to inquire and check for availability. I will answer back in less than 24 hours.

Dana Stahlman
7245 Neil Road
London, Ohio 43140

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm is now offering Sugar Syrup!
This is invert Sucrose Syrup, which means about 1% of the Sucrose (table sugar) is broken down into Fructose and Glucose, making it similar to honey.
A Great Feed for Your Bees!

**Come By and Fill Up Your 5-Gallon Pail!**

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For over 35 years we have developed and crafted the very best beekeeping equipment in the industry. We are here to make the difference.

Request your 2014 Catalog & Begin Placing your Orders Today!

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Advertisement
Upcoming Educational Opportunities

New at the Lithopolis Honey Fest This Year

OHIO HONEY SHOW
Special this year. No Entry Fee or pre-registration!
Drop off entries on Friday September 5, 2014 (1pm – 8pm)
Best of Show “Dan Cottrell Memorial” Award
Ribbons and cash awards to Best of Show, First, Second and Third Place

Categories for Liquid Honey:
Water White; White; Extra Lite Amber; Light Amber; Amber
Liquid honey must be in 3 – 1# Queenline jars
Cut Comb 3 -in boxes
Creamed Honey 2 – 1# In creamed honey Jars
2 Frames of Comb Honey (deep, medium or shallow) In display case
No identification on jars boxes, frames or cases

Judging and Awards on Saturday September 6, 2014
Time to be announced, amount of cash awards
to be determined based on sponsorship
Do You Have the Best Honey in Ohio? – Prove It!
For more information, please contact:
Shawn Rinehart or Kimberly Flippen at 614.492.0229

THE Ohio State University

Bee Lab Webinar Series 2014

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

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

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

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

EASTERN APICULTURE SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

July 28—August 1, 2014
EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
RICHMOND, KENTUCKY

“Esprit de Bee!” will be this year’s theme in honor of troops returning from Afghanistan. Come to the lectures and hands on training from some of the foremost honey bee experts in the world, such as Jennifer Berry, Dianna Sammataro, Michael Palmer, Dewey Caron, Jeff Harris, Maryann Frazier, and Wyatt Mangum and a whole host of other local and international experts. Come hear Dr. Nicola Bradbear, founder of Bees for Rural Development, talk about beekeeping programs in India and Africa. Or listen to best-selling mystery writer-beekeeper Abigail Keam talk about her series, featuring beekeeper Josiah Reynolds in Death by a Honeybee, Death by Drowning, Death by Bridle, and Death by Bourbon.

To register online: easternapiculture.org
And don’t forget, next year’s conference is in Guelph! More to come on that…..
Buzzing About
OSBA

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

Community Awareness
“Save the Honey Bee” License plate will increase public awareness, and provide funds for further outreach.

Beekeeper Education
Visit us on the web. Explore our electronic educational pages.

Club Development
Need a club in your area? OSBA has a “How to Start a New Association Guide” Contact your OSBA Director or Regional Representative.

Funding for OSU Honey Bee Research
OSBA donation to further studies at The Ohio State University Beelab.

You

OSBA Educational Conferences
Reserve the Date! November 1st for the Fall Conference in Plain City.

Master Beekeeper Program
Self-paced 30 tiered education program. Get out of your comfort zone and learn new skills!

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

From Alex Zomchek – Miami Valley Region:

The Butler County Beekeepers Association is currently recovering from hosting the recent OSBA Summer Conference. We are delighted to have been asked again and the general consensus is that both an entertaining and educational experience was had by all. In the short term we are looking to work with the local MOON/OEFFA (Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association) chapter to host a community hive inspection, honey extraction and tasting on June 29th starting at 5pm located at Miami University's Ecology Research Center. We are also looking to increase our footprint at several of the annual craft/education events by formalizing a tent, materials, signage as well as hive products to sell as fund raisers. Lastly we look to complete a large, solar wax melter built to complement our hive mover, and extracting equipment which is available to all members.

Greene County Beekeepers are gearing up for their Annual Honey Harvest at The Narrows Reserve. Each year the club has expanded the event to include Apitherapy Demonstrations, Candle Rolling, Face Painting, Bee-bag Toss, and other educational demonstrations.

From Jason Bosler—Crossroads Region:

In the Crossroads Region we have seen a great honey flow going on, many beekeepers are running out of equipment and getting ready to spin honey off while trying to decide where to put that swarm that they just picked up.

On May 31st the Tuscawas Beekeepers hosted a Queen Rearing Class at Wholesome Valley Farms in Wilmot, OH which went very well, and we also made the local paper- in color!

Next on tap for our area is the Family Farm Field Day which will be held in Dundee (2517 Twp Rd 606 Dundee, Oh), this event host over 3500 people each year and is great place to learn about new farming ideas and techniques as well as to hear about beekeeping. There are around 30 vendor tents and booths, many demonstrations and talks will be given on anything related to farming. There is food available and cost is by donation including the food. There will be a Beekeeping tent again this year. We are hoping to have a honey spinning demo. We will also have at least three speakers, who will discuss “Beginning in Beekeeping”; Disease and Pest management” and “Beehive Products and their Uses”. The date is 7-19-14 – 8am-4pm. Everyone is welcome even if you don’t own a farm.

From Dwight Wilson—Maumee Valley Region:

The North West Ohio Beekeepers Association usually will have several events that will happen during the summer. We do not have typical meetings in the summer, as we meet at the school when school is in session.

There will be a Summer Field Day at Dwight and Jerry’s bee farm on June 28th near Continental, Ohio, at 1:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Mel Dimseleiken who will be giving a hands on demonstration in the bee yard on requeening, building strong over-wintered nucs, and making splits. This workshop is open to any beekeeper or anyone wanting to come and learn.

We will also have an August Field Day at Alan Wischmeyer’s bee yard at his house, on August 23rd at 1pm. We will be doing a general inspection, tearing a hive apart, requeening, and making a hive ready for winter. There will be a rain date of August 24th at 2pm.

From Tracy Alarcon—Western Reserve Region:

The Western Reserve Region has been very busy these last few months with many opportunities to add to ones knowledge!

On Saturday 5/17/2014 Greater Cleveland Beekeepers held their 4th annual Field Day and Conference. Joe Kovaleski, Crossroads Region Director, spoke about Spring Management.

The Lorain County Beekeepers held their 19th annual field day on June 7th. Their guest speaker was Chris Hansen, a package bee hauler. There were also contests, games, beginner classes, hive inspections, and of course FOOD!

(Continued on page 16)
Association Corner (Continued from page 15)

The Portage County Beekeepers Association held their annual Field Day on Sunday May 18th. There were 40+ beekeepers in attendance and a good time was had by all! There were colonies of all sizes, from packages installed three weeks prior, to full sized colonies that just came out of an apple orchard from a pollination contract, for the beekeepers to inspect and see the differences. President Dan Kaminski demonstrated how to make a split using a swarm cell, general inspection techniques. The Portage County Bee Inspector, Tracy Alarcon, gave a demonstration on how to take a sample of bees, brood, and comb to send to the Bee Lab in Beltsville, Maryland, along with how to sample for Varroa using the powdered sugar shake and an alcohol wash. Because as we know there are two kinds of beekeepers, "Those that admit having Varroa and those who don't admit it".

The Medina County Beekeepers Association is extremely busy this season! The last 4 meetings have had over 100 beekeepers in attendance each month! Each month, a half hour before the "regular" meeting, a "beginners half hour" is held. Here any and all questions can be asked and hopefully answered. This meeting is set up so that anyone at any level can ask questions, whether they are a brand new beekeeper or an older more experienced beekeeper. This half hour is usually attended by between 30 and 60 people each month and is growing! In May, the club held their annual "plant swap" where the members bring in plants, hopefully bee plants, and swap with other members for plants that they don't have. Member Adam Stearns demonstrated how to make "Seed Bombs". For those that don't know what a "Seed Bomb" is here is a link about them, http://www.guerrillagardening.org/ggseedbombs.html This year the club purchased "Bee Plants" from the Portage County Soil and Water annual "Tree" sale and offered them for sale to club members.

June 13th-15th the club brought in Jennifer Berry from the University of Georgia to teach an extensive Queen Rearing Class and speak at the monthly meeting. Twenty-four beekeepers attended the extensive three day class. Participants came from all over! There were beekeepers from, NY, TN, NC, and of course OH!

These are just some of the highlights about what is going on in the Western Reserve Region.

From Andrea Littler—Buckeye Hills

The Buckeye Hills Region has created a website with links to the OSBA, as well as information such as Sustainable Beekeeping Tips, Swarm Removal & monthly updates about the Athens County Area Beekeepers Association. (ACABA) Check out athensbeekeepers.org!

ACABA has up & running community hives, located in the Athens city limits. These Langstroth & Top Bar Hives are owned and managed by the ACABA Members. The hives are educational for the community and offer new (& old) members, weekly opportunities to learn about sustainable beekeeping, with designated "Hive Mentors." ACABA members are able to participate in working the hives, then return to their own hives with more experience, knowledge, & confidence. Additionally, 5 experienced ACABA Mentors have been teamed with 3-5 "Newbees" to go observe hives at the mentors' homes and vice versa! ACABA has dates to attend several events this Summer; Athens Brew Week Festival & The Paw-Paw Festival. This month we have a members Queen-Rearing Workshop & Fellowship Gathering scheduled.

ACABA has recently interviewed with WOUB Radio with commentary and photo shoot regarding recent barriers facing the honey bees & strategies Beekeepers are implementing to strengthen their bees, as well as increasing honey production.

Members of the Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers' Association are looking forward to another great year and improving on the success of last year. 2014 kicked off with our annual Honey Bee Expo in January. Despite a Friday evening snow and drop in temperature, around 270 guests, vendors, speakers, and members attended. Plans are already underway for the 2015 Expo. To all those guest, who year after year join us, we thank you. Without your attendance, the Expo would not be possible.

January's meeting was cancelled due to weather, so our 2014 organizational meeting was held in February. Nomination of officers was held with election to be held in March. President Sam Hammett presented a PowerPoint on varroa mites and treatment.

Election of officers was held in March with the following: President- Kenny Bach, 1st VP- Sandy Moore, 2nd VP- Mike DeVaughn, Secretary- Sandy Bach, and Treasurer-Teresa Wagoner. The members would like to thank Sam for his many years of leadership, and we know he will still contribute to the success of the club. A survey of colonies, among members present, showed 46% winter loses.

(Continued on page 17)
Association Corner (Continued from page 16)

There will be challenges ahead but we will come out of this wiser and better beekeepers. As Red Green says, “I’m pulling for you. We’re all in this together.” Clay Guthrie, of Dadant Bee Supply, was our featured speaker. His program included varroa mites and treatment, small hive beetles, and Nosema. Thanks Clay.
So until next time, “Keep your hive tool sharp and your smoker lit. It’s just good practice”.

From Kimberly Flippen– Heart of Ohio

Scioto Valley Beekeepers Association’s monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at the Circleville Fire Station community room 582 North Court Street, Circleville OH 43113. Roundtable discussion starts at 6:00pm Business meeting starts at 6:30. Come early to get a seat we always have a full house. SVB to host the beekeeping pavilion at the Ohio State Fair. Their web site is: http://www.sciotovalleybeekeepers.com/

ECOBA (East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association)- 1st year beeyard is held at the Dawes Arboretum, David Road Red Barn area every Wednesday evening weather permitting 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. The Red Barn area is off Davis Road, which is north of the main entrance to Dawes on State Route 13—weather permitting. Bring a dish for the potluck, so we all have something to nibble on. Gloves & Hive tools will be provided to avoid any possible cross-contamination. All beekeepers regardless of their expertise level (first year, second year, many years) are invited to participate.

2nd year bee yard is held at the Dawes Apiary in the Red Barn area off Davis Road Thursdays 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (except meeting night) weather permitting. 2nd year bee yard for students who took the beekeeping class in 2013. No 2nd year bee yard on July 3rd due to the holiday. check our web site for more fun and information from the cooks corner to education and the library.

COBA Central Ohio Beekeepers Association (web site-http://centralohiobeekeepers.org/) Held their Annual Picnic June 22nd from 1:00pm to 4:00pm COBA will host a booth at the Franklin County Fair, and is hosting a club table at the OSBA Pavilion at the Ohio State Fair.

News from KCBA (Knox County Beekeepers’ Association): Questions about bees or KCBA? Contact: Jeff Gabric: Cell: 515-450-1359 or jgabric@columbus.rr.com

Our regular meetings are held at: Mount Vernon Developmental Center, 1250 Vernonview Drive, Mount Vernon, Ohio. We will meet in the Great Room in the Administration Building which is the first building on the right as you go up the hill past the pond. Vernonview Drive is Route 768 which runs between Rt. 3 and Rt. 36 and meets Rt. 36 at Kroger’s.

For updated information go to the Knox County Beekeepers Association Website:www.knoxbees.com.

News from Morrow County Area Honey Bee Association: website www.facebook.com/pages/Morrow-County-Beekeepers. Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month February through October 7:00pm at the Wilhelm Building, 871 West Marion Street (SR 95), Edison, Ohio 43338 email morrowcountybees@yahoo.com dues $10.00 per family

From Mike Doseck– Top of Ohio

Tuesday, May 20th, kicked off the first meeting for a new association in the Top of Ohio Region. See the article on Page 8.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association is in the final planning stages for the annual Honey Harvest at Brukner Nature Center! This popular family friendly event attracts a broad range of audience.

From Marishka Wile– Ohio Valley

On July the 8th, Brown County Beekeepers Association will hold an Expert Beekeeper Panel. Come ready to ask questions! This meeting will be at the Mount Orab Park Shelter. The Brown County Fair is September 22-27. The club has a booth and sells honey. They also educate the public about honeybees. The club also co-sponsors the open honey show at the fair. The show is open to any beekeeper in Ohio.

Telling the Bees

Ron Hoopes

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

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

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

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

Notify Ron Hoopes, Memorial Committee Chair at: beefarm2003@AOL.COM or cell 740.624.1683 if you have notices to pass on to the newsletter.
Roy’s Files — Caged Queen Introduction

Roy Hendrickson

Editor’s Note: Like many beekeepers, Roy has compiled many hints and tips throughout his beekeeping years. He has been generous enough to share with me many pages of the tried and true beekeeping snippets that he is now organizing on his computer. While much beekeeping information is now available at our fingertips, literally, not all of what you will find online as been proven throughout the years. I have asked Roy if I could share with you the information that he was so kind to forward to me. Of course, he said “Yes”. Therefore, here is the continuing series from… Roy’s Files.

Requeening Overwintered Colonies — I operate on the assumption that a strong overwintered colony has a queen capable of carrying it thru the main honey flow. In other words, if it isn’t broke, I don’t attempt to fix it. A quick check of the brood pattern will usually confirm whether or not the queen is up to par. If all appears normal, I keep a close watch for swarm indicators, but otherwise manage the colony along traditional lines. Any attempt to requeen is put on hold until after crop removal.

Questionable Colonies — Any attempt to requeen a queenless, laying worker, or very weak colony is generally a waste of time. Why risk losing an expensive queen trying to requeen a colony with no future? Instead, use the new queen to make up a replacement split from a strong colony. Once established, the split can be left to buildup on its own, used to requeen the parent or another overwintered colony, or united with a weak, queenless, or laying worker colony.

Queen Introduction — Once the new split has been moved to another location to prevent drifting, you’re ready to install the caged queen. Do not immediately expose the time-release candy. Leave the split alone for several days to allow the bees time to become acquainted with their new queen. Three or four days after makeup, open the colony up, set the caged queen aside, and check the brood frame(s) for emergency queen cells. If no cells are found and the bees are not acting hostile toward the caged queen, expose the time-release candy, or you can manually release the queen at this time. If emergency queen cells are present, individually remove each brood frame, shake the bees onto the ground in front of the hive, and destroy all of the emergency cells. It’s imperative that you destroy anything that even remotely resembles a queen cell. Failure to do so will spell the demise of your new queen! Once this operation is complete, reassemble the split, and leave the time-release candy covered. Repeat the inspection in three or four days. (Queens cannot be reared from larvae older than three days old) If there are no additional cells on the return inspection, it’s safe to expose the candy for a timed release, or the queen can be manually released. Occasionally, (10 to 15% of the time) there will be emergency cells present on the second inspection. If so, repeat the cell removal process, expose the candy, and leave the split alone for a couple of weeks.

Checking the Queen — The queen you purchased had a solid brood pattern prior to being caged for sale. Once she has been accepted by the split it should take only a few days for her to return to normal brood production. When the split is checked a couple of weeks after makeup, the presence of eggs and young brood indicates that all is well. The small colony can now be left to build until it’s ready to be transferred into larger quarters, usually about four weeks after makeup, or it can be used to requeen another questionable colony. If you want to increase the rate of buildup, you can transfer an additional frame of older capped brood per week from any colony. To eliminate any chance of transferring the donor colony queen, shake most of the adults off the frame being transferred, and place it into the center portion of the receiving colony’s broodnest.
Check Nosema Levels in Your Apiary

Barbara Bloetscher

The USDA Beltsville Lab has received samples this spring from Ohio and other states with high levels of Nosema. Samples from seemingly healthy vigorous colonies have had Nosema levels of 2-10 million spores per bee, although the tolerance level set by USDA researchers is only 1 million spores per bee! Based on research, the dominant species is *Nosema ceranae*, a relatively newly discovered pathogen of honey bees.

*Nosema ceranae* needs to be monitored because high levels can cause the colony to slowly decline and die. Honey and brood production is reduced and the infected queen will die prematurely. It has been linked as a factor of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

*Nosema ceranae* can be a quiet killer, unlike the more familiar *N. apis* which causes bees to defecate on the outside of the hive in early spring. Symptoms for *N ceranae* include poor growth of the hive, slow moving bees which may quiver or be unable to fly, and dead bees outside the entrance. One may find fecal spotting on frames but in the summer most of the bees defecate in the field and often die before returning to the hive. If the digestive tract is removed from the bee, it will appear whitish, swollen and misshapen.

*N ceranae* is a microsporidium, a type of fungus that forms dormant spores in the hive on frames, foundation and the propalized corners of the hive boxes. When a bee ingests the fungus, the fungus begins to grow in the gut of the honey bee. As it "grows", it sends mycelial pegs through the wall of the digestive tract, damaging the integrity of the digestive tract wall. Waste then leaks through the damaged areas into the bee’s body cavity, causing eventual death of the bee and contamination of surfaces in the hive. As nurse bees clean the cells, they ingest the spores and feed it to the larvae thus the infection quickly spreads.

Colonies that are not developing as rapidly as other hives in the area or have dead or quivering bees should be tested for Nosema. Contact the County Apiary Inspector or collect 50-100 bees from the frames of affected colonies (making sure not to collect the Queen). Bees should be taken from the frames (vs forager bees) as the level of Nosema would be lowest in the younger bees. Collect bees from several frames and several affected hives to obtain the desired number of bees. Beekeepers with only a few hives can collect 30-50 bees if necessary, however the more bees tested the more accurate the results. Put the bees in a leak proof container (like a medicine or vitamin bottle) with enough alcohol to cover the bees.

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Loosely, our industry seems to undergo major adjustments about every 25-35 years. We have just completed our industry’s most recent redesign and are now in a new epoch with a new kind of bee and beekeeper.

1914-1918  The World War I years
- Birth of commercial beekeeping for honey production and supplemental pollination
- Sugar rationed
- Honey as an alternative sweetener
- Health uses recognized
- Beekeeping was encouraged

1939-1945  The World War II years
- Sugar was rationed, pollination important for wartime food production
- Beeswax was in demand as a water-proofing material for war materiel
- Beekeepers were valued as contributors to the war effort
- Health uses were understood

1975-1980  The First Organic Food Movement years
- Low salt/no sugar foods were in demand, but not readily available
- Natural sweeteners were preferred over artificial sweeteners
- No pesticides residues were tolerated
- Bees and hives were a fundamental component of this mindset.

2006 – 2011  The CCD/Urban Beekeeper years
- CCD combined with the Internet to greatly elevate visibility of the bee collapse issue
- Beekeeping was a component of urban/suburban gardening combined with “Green” concepts
- Relaxing of city restrictions on gardening and beekeeping allowed expansion

2011 – Present  The Modern Restructured Beekeeper years
- Current typical beekeeper is astutely informed via modern digital communications
- Fewer colonies are kept but they are micro-managed in every way
- Greater numbers of winter losses and reduced colony vitality is expected
- General ecological awareness and concern in areas of pesticides, food wholesomeness and pollination issues

So here we are – all modern and fancy
While I do miss some of the old ways, new-styled beekeeping is here and I’m glad it is. This adaptation is an indication of vitality and vigor that our industry has changed and is continuing to change to meet current conditions. Changing and adapting is absolutely critical. True, while keeping bees is now more challenging and expensive, it has never been more important simply because the bee population is presently so reduced. But what would be we do if we suddenly doubled our population back to the five-million-plus that it once was? Since 1950’s, we have drastically reduced bee food stocks by eliminating “weeds” at every opportunity. Modern beekeeping is a better fit to today’s modern society. Smaller colony numbers with somewhat smaller populations that are more intensively managed in a diversity of places works far better than the 1940s version of huge yards with hives filled with mite-free bees. Costs and labor inputs have demanded that we more intensively manage fewer colonies.

I am a not a prognosticator. I never envisioned the gargantuan changes the Internet would make in beekeeping, and I had no idea that CCD would be the issue that would help us get beyond the Varroa years. I am confident in projecting that beekeeping will have an ever increasing electronic future. The early trappings are already here. We already have the ability to control our house heat levels and refrigerator via Wi-Fi controls from the other side of the world. Electronic beekeeping cannot be far behind,

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but bee hives will have the same smells and sounds, and stings will still be painful. The future beekeeper will use a pheromone sniffer to determine queen performance and disease management. Indeed, he will probably be able to make the observation while sitting in his home as the information is sent to him electronically. Our ability to deal with pathogen bee viruses will improve, and we will be better able to produce and manage queen stock.

Though I don’t know what they will be, unforeseen problems will arise that will again be touted as the end of the bee world. But all that future stuff may or may not happen. For right now, with all our current problems, we are in good shape – even our best shape ever. Even with our apicultural challenges, beekeeping is still beekeeping. While beekeepers change and adapt, their bees stay the same. It’s that “sameness” that we love about our bees. Dependably, bees are always bees.

Dr. James E. Tew
Emeritus, State Specialist, Beekeeping
Ohio Cooperative Extension System

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http://www.youtube.com/user/onetewbee
Budget Friendly Beekeeping—Staying Ahead of the Curve

Gadgets & Gizmos

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Congratulations to Miami Valley Beekeepers Association and Greene County Beekeepers Association for their winning entries in the first annual gadgets and gizmos contest at the Ohio State Beekeepers Association Summer Conference. Scioto Valley, Butler County, Summit County, and Maumee Valley all submitted paperwork for the contest. Our Judges Panel consisted of Kim Flottum, Jerry Hayes, and Keith Delaplane.

All of the entries were quite creative, and started a lot of attendees talking about how they too could create their own gadgets to help out in the apiary.

The winning entry, a solar wax melter created from a picnic cooler, has already been described in a previous newsletter (3rd Quarter issue of 2012. Check out the issue on the OSBA website).

Second prize was awarded for a nifty swarm catching device. Who knew a plastic bottle from a water cooler and a plastic pole, along with quite a bit of duct tape, could provide such an easy way to snag a swarm? Dan O’Callaghan, Greene County Beekeepers Association President, uses this ingenious device to catch swarms that are too difficult to reach by ladder. He gets under the swarm, centers the container under the bees, and then uses a swift upward jabbing motion to dislodge the bees from the branch and into the container. He then tips the contents of the container into a waiting traveling nuc box. I can just see a lot of company water coolers missing their water bottles!

Dan’s other creative entry was a hinged and cross-wired frame that he uses when he does a cut-out.

Another nifty device, entered by Scioto Valley Beekeeper, Ken Edmonds, was a self-contained traveling swarm box, created from a large plastic storage bin with part of the top cut out and replaced with screening. You can store all of your swarm catching equipment in the tote and leave it in your car. When you get the swarm call you are ready to go without fumbling to grab your supplies. Swarm can be dumped into the container, and then secure the lid for a safe trip home. A great, helpful, creative idea. It will also keep the spouse happy that the swarm equipment isn’t strewn throughout the car.

When I see one of these totes at a garage sale or thrift store, I know it’s going home with me. This is a one of those projects that can be completed during some downtime in the apiary.

Next quarter I’ll share even more of the Gadgets & Gizmos that were entered in our contest. In the meantime, clear off your workshop counter and get busy putting together your own Gadgets & Gizmos!
By the time you read this newsletter, we will be in the month of July...over half way through 2014. Where did the time go? Your OSBA team has been working on a fast and furious pace to keep you up-to-date on bee activities around our state and the nation.

So exactly what have we been up to? Glad you asked:

The OSBA Summer Conference, with well-known guest speakers, microscopy class, Gadgets & Gizmos contest, and ever popular bee race.

The “Save the Honey Bee” License plate was unanimously passed by the Ohio House of Representatives, and is now waiting on a vote in the Senate.

Logowear— we’ve expanded our inventory of popular items...they are available on our website.

Facebook Page— weekly honey based recipes and news about beekeeping, as it breaks

We’re working with several Directors and Representatives to help new clubs form and grow

Your OSBA Fair Committee has created an exciting and ever-changing venue at the Ohio State Fair.

The OSBA Fall Conference, which closes out the beekeeping season, has a line-up of speakers and activities that will truly make it a memorable event. Registration opens September 15th.

And, we’re already in the planning stages with some great opportunities in 2015.

Bee part of the activity, become an OSBA member and help support beekeepers across Ohio.
Max Your Wax! (Micromanaging Drawn Comb)

Alex Zomchek

"One Piece at a Time" is a country novelty song written by Wayne Kemp and recorded by Johnny Cash in 1976. The song tells of a man who, in 1949, leaves his home in Kentucky to pursue work at an auto assembly plant. He takes the small parts home hidden in his large lunchbox; larger parts are smuggled out in his co-worker's motor home. There is method to his madness, but it ultimately takes over 24 years to build the car. It’s worth a listen.

Over the years I have applied this parsimony methodology to beekeeping in general and drawn comb building in particular. Let me explain.

Beekeepers tend to think in wholes. Whole - hives, brood chambers, supers, colonies. Most don't play at the individual bee or frame level.

In an earlier article entitled, "Frame Rotation" (OSBA Newsletter; 1st Qtr; 2014) I talked about culling brood frames in the early spring primarily to limit pollutant buildups (among other things) with the net result being a literal turn over the brood box every five years or so. Capitalizing on this idea I am recommending having your bees build new drawn comb from foundation each summer season. And doing so, not one super, but one frame at a time per our earlier mentioned song.

We all invariably wish we had more drawn comb supers ready at the outsets of the nectar flows. So here is a wax building technique, but first a little background on why this works.

Most beekeepers are familiar with the seasonal brood or “bell shaped” curve cycle. We start with overwintered bees; build up to a peak population; and then taper back off to our “wintering bees”. Now think in terms of wax builders. Understanding a little bee physiology helps a little here.

Young bee’s wax glands are mature and most productive starting around 12 to 18 days after emerging. At this time and under the “right” conditions these glands begin secreting a fatty acid we commonly call beeswax. (Aside: external conditions like nectar flows or dearth, swarming, etc. can actually alter this typical cycle causing age appropriate wax builders to shut down or older bees to metamorphosize into wax producers).

The hive’s population and corresponding growing number of wax builders is a timed response to our nectar flows and the subsequent need for honey storage. This is a relatively seamless process, but even seasoned beekeepers stand transfixed by a frame of honey freshly capped with "virgin wax". As an aside, you can often gauge where you are in the nectar flow and storage by staring straight down on a super to see the “angel wax” forming between and along the top bars of the frames.

Ohio’s nectar flows stop as quickly as they start. This presents us with an opportunity. We still usually have lots of kids/wax builders in the hive as the nectar flow wanes with nothing to do. Why not have them make additional drawn combs?

As with many things in beekeeping it is not so much a trick as an understanding. In this case, an understanding of bee’s wax gland-response mechanisms. The end of a nectar flow is usually indicated by impartially capped (but ripened) frames as well as impartially drawn combs. This is a good time to extract those seasonal, varietal honeys and make wax.

Honey bees are resource management juggernauts. With no nectar flow bees will be reluctant to draw wax. It takes 7 to 8 pounds of honey to make just one pound of wax. Often placing an empty box of foundation at such times will result in the super being ignored wherein excessive heat builds in the upper portion of the hive resulting in warped, stained, and chewed on foundation.

(Continued on page 26)
Max Your Wax! (Continued from page 25)

Reinvigorate this response cycle. Stimulate (or “fool”) your bees into thinking a nectar flow is back on. Do so by feeding them a sugar solution. Unless you have completely robbed your bees of honey and there is not sufficient storage around the brood chambers this does not have to be that 1:1 ratio you use in the early spring or fall. In fact it can be quite dilute as flower nectar is approximately only 3% to 5% sugar.

An additional “trick” if you are suspecting an end to the nectar flow is to remove just one or two of the center honey super frames (remember bees work for the center outward). These frames should be capped and stored in a freezer to keep wax moth larva, hive beetles, et.al. from damaging these frames if you are not going to extract them right away. Then replace these frame(s) with foundation frame(s). There are often enough wax builders around to tackle a frame or two instead of an entire super if you are not simulative feeding for wax. How quickly these are worked can be a good gauge of where you are in your honey season.

So, what have you got to lose? There are many benefits to maxing your wax. You have lots of age appropriate wax builders doing nothing once the prime nectar flows are over. Sugar prices on the U.S. market are currently just seventeen cents per pound! And there are new studies showing that simulative and nutritional feeding during a sustained nectar dearth is also beneficial to overall colony health. Last but not least, like Johnny Cash above, you can build those future drawn comb supers one frame at a time.

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

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

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

Advertisement

No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

Honey Peanut Balls

1 c. oatmeal (slightly ground up)
1/2 c. ground flaxseed
1/3 c. honey
1/2 c. peanut butter
1 t. vanilla
1/2 c. chocolate morsels
Cocoa powder
Ground unsweetened dried coconut

Combine all ingredients (except the cocoa powder and coconut).

Shape into balls.

Roll some of the ball in the cocoa powder, and some in the coconut.

For a change of pace you could add raisins, or use almond butter or cashew butter, or dried cherries..... So delicious, and fast-fast-fast to make (and eat)
Building Your Club—Think About a Field Day

Terry Lieberman-Smith

It's not too late in the year for your club to coordinate a Field Day in order to provide excellent training and interaction between new and experienced beekeepers. I was fortunate enough to attend the Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association’s most recent Field Day with Guest Speaker Mel Disselkoen.

The fun afternoon started with a warm welcome by NWOBA President, Dwight Wilson. The meeting was then turned over to Mel for a two hour presentation on his OTS method of queen rearing and hive management that has an added benefit of controlling the varroa mite without using medication. This method is outlined in his book available on his website www.mdasplitter.com. After the presentation he answered many questions, and then we were off to one of Dwight’s nearby beeyards.

Over the next two hours we reviewed many hives, looked for queens, watched Mel as he notched some frames so the bees would make queen cells, and pulled some honey frames from hives that needed more space. All the participants enjoyed visiting Dwight’s well-maintained apiary.

One of the best parts of the apiary experience, especially for the new-bees, was that hive inspections did not always go according to plan. Queens were playing hide-and-go-seek with Mel and Dwight. In one case, she was found in a clump of bees in the grass near the hive stand.

I always try to glean a “take-away” idea from every apiary. Dwight has a few nifty mobile stands in his apiary. Rather than placing the hive bodies on the upside down telescoping lids on the ground, he places the lids on the mobile stands, and then puts the hive bodies in the telescoping lids. He does not have to constantly bend over and pick up these heavy hive bodies. These stands will certainly save a lot of wear and tear on your lower back, which in turn will make visiting your apiary and working the hives less of a chore.

The two hours in the beeyard passed quickly, and a bunch of hungry beekeepers returned to the meeting room. Thanks to club volunteers, a delicious picnic meal was waiting for the intrepid beekeepers. Everyone had a chance to cool down, enjoy the food, and share lots of great beekeeping conversation.

Dwight then invited everyone to tour his honey house. He gave a short demonstration on how he handles his honey supers, before, during and after extraction.

Field Days are an excellent way to help boost club morale by providing both new and experienced beekeepers an opportunity to share information and actual hands-on experience in a beeyard. There does need to be some coordination on topic, and plan for beeyard activities, and of course topping it off with some tasty food is a great way to finish off the educational day.

You do not need a large number of hives in order to have a successful Field Day. A topic on a specific subject and then a visit to the beeyard to follow up on that topic is all you need get started on a team building club activity. Topics could include how to make a nuc, different ways to super your hive, the best ways to look for a queen, or some other single topic for your apiary visit.

So, consider adding Field Days to your club’s activity list. The time spent coordinating the event will be minor compared to the many short and long-term benefits to your association.
In order to get the longest life out of Varroa control products, rotation is essential. Mite resistance can develop in a short period of time and that is why it is key to rotate your control materials with products like Apistan®. Rotating on an annual or semi-annual basis with products that have different modes of action will help manage mite resistance. Start your rotation program with Apistan®.

For more information, call 1-800-347-6272 or visit www.centralapiary.com.
## 2014 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION
### OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

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**Staff Appointments:**
- Terry Lieberman-Smith Newsletter Editor osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com

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### Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2014 Membership Form

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

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

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

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City: ___________ State: ___ Zip: ___________ County: ____________________
Phone: (____) ______-___________ Email Address (Print neatly) ______________________________

Name of Local Bee Association: ________________________________

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

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

Membership is based on the calendar year, January through December.
Wax—Even More Valuable Per Ounce Than Honey

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Beeswax is the chameleon product of the hive. Its uses, both past and present, shows us just how versatile beeswax is by providing us with solutions for a wide variety of problems….from sticking drawers to droopy mustaches. Some beekeepers I know just fling scraped burr comb into the bushes around their apiaries, as if it were worthless. If they only knew the “gold” in the scrapings, they would treat them with the respect they deserve.

Most beekeepers understand how precious those drawn combs are to the apiary. Spring packages placed in hives with drawn comb build up much faster than those placed on foundation. And we all look forward to “white wax season” as the kick-off to a strong nectar flow.

Here are just a few uses for those tiny little scales our honey bees produce. You can find recipes for most of these items on-line.

- Lubricant for old furniture joints, doors, windows and drawers
- Prevents bronze items from tarnishing
- Furniture polish when mixed with linseed oil and mineral spirits in equal parts
- Conditioner for wood bowls and cutting boards
- Coat nails and screws to prevent wood from splintering
- Used by NASA with an enzyme to mop up oceanic oil spills
- Coat reeds for woodwinds to get a tight fit
- Egg painting in a Ukraine folk art of Pysanky
- Used in the Indian art of fabric dyeing called Batik printing
- Beeswax candles don’t drip or create soot
- To water proof leather
- Molten beeswax to polish granite counter tops
- Make home-made crayons
- Use with palm oil for soap. The palm oil reduces scars and the wax a natural moisturizer
- Mix with comfrey and chickweed powder to help alleviate itching
- Strengthens sewing thread and prevent snagging.
- To fill seams between pieces of slate when setting up a pool table
- In glass etching
- Encaustic painting
- Make earplugs
- Ear Candling
- To make Dental floss
- To ease cracked animal hooves
- Used in making cosmetics
- Coating Copper sinks to retain the patina
- To make balms, healing salves, creams, etc.
- As a polish for shoes and floors.
- To unsticking drawers.
- Keep zippers moving smoothly
- To water proof boots and saddles
- To coat hand tools to prevent rust
- In manufacturing as a thickener or emulsifier
- To seal documents or envelopes
- Blended with pine rosin to serve as an adhesive
- Glazing of fruits and vegetables
- As a hair pomade or moustache wax
- Grafting plants
- Wax fly fishing lines so they float
- To keep saws sharp
- Used on snow skis for a good glide
- Formerly used to manufacture phonograph cylinders
- Saturate cardboard with beeswax and use as a fuel for a backpackers fuel for stove
- To seal stick matches to stay dry when boating, fishing or skiing
- As a wood filler
- Condition a wood cutting board
- Replacement for plastic wrap— fabric specially coated with beeswax. This would be a great fabric topper for your gifted honey jars, when they are finished with the honey, they can re-use the fabric topper for other foods.

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Buzz from the Past

An early design for an extractor.

Picture supplied by: James Thompson
District 9 Pollinator Habitat Pilot Project: To Bee Continued...
Dianne Kahal-Berman

Winter has passed into spring and now we are moving into summer. So how grows the ODOT District 9 Pollinator Habitat Pilot Project? In a word….slowly. Because it was necessary to prepare the sites in early spring and then plant in late Spring, we are only now beginning to see germination. However, these strong little Ohio native plants are beginning to peek out from under the soil and they are a beautiful thing to behold! Good things often require patience. Remember, at the beginning of this Pilot Project, we said 3 years until the flowers. The Project is on tract.

On June 9th, ODOT’s Ross County forces together with the Deer Creek Chapter of Pheasants Forever planted the two SR 207 sites while simultaneously applying the final application of glyphosate. The Ohio Certified Public Manager’s Bee Team was also present for the event, cheering their success! Since then, we can’t deny it’s been a little bit of a struggle battling the Johnson grass on Site 1. The Johnson grass seized the moment when other competitive foliage had been eradicated. But with the carefully planned mowing schedule, i.e. plants on both sites and surrounding foliage being kept to about 6 or 7” and not allowing weeds to mature to seeding height, the days for the Johnson grass are numbered. Next Spring when forbs and desirable spring grasses wake up, they will hopefully out compete the germinating Johnson nemesis. Other than that, Site 2 is looking good!

Busy as we are, District 9 is in the process of selecting another site to prepare for Fall Planting. In keeping with President Obama’s federal strategy to promote the health of bees and other pollinators, ODOT is proactively moving forward in this roadside restoration adventure. Other ODOT Districts are preparing to select their own pollinator habitat sites. So hang in there little bee buddies. The ODOT cavalry is coming!

Editor’s Note: See page 32 for a listing of the plants that they are using in the Habitat Pilot Project

Do You Know What is Wrong with This Picture?

We will be posting this same question on the OSBA Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/#!/OhioStateBeekeepers later this month….along with the answer on our website.

Each week our Facebook page has new recipes and industry updates...stop by and check it out.
Pollinator Habitat

New England Aster  Black-eyed Susan  Smooth Aster  Butterfly Weed  Tall Coreopsis

Dense Blazing Star  Indian Grass  Lanceleaf Coreopsis  Little Bluestem  Wild Bergamot

White Wild Indigo  Stiff Goldenrod  Rose Milkweed  Grey Headed Coneflower

Showy Black-eyed Susan  Roundheaded Bushclover  Purple Coneflower  Nodding Wild Rye  Prairie Dock

Pollinator Habitat Pilot Project
ODOT District 9 - SR 207 Ross County
Southern Ohio Dry-Mesic Mix