OSBA FALL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM
November 4, 2012, Reynoldsburg, OH

Name _____________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________
City _______________________________________ Zip County
Phone ________________________ Email ________________________

$15.00 Pre-Registration for OSBA members
$20.00 for Non Pre-registration
$ 5.00 for spouse and children under 18 of OSBA members with family membership
$30.00 for non-members

Pre-ordered lunches are $8.00.
Limited lunches will be available for walk–in registrants

Make Checks Payable to: Ohio State Beekeepers Association
Mail to: John George 8814 Surrey Lane Plain City, OH 43064
As most of you already know, Dana Stahlman resigned as president on Sept 13. During his time in office, OSBA experienced a broader public awareness of its mission, with the development of a robust quarterly newsletter, improved communication between OSBA local beekeeping clubs throughout the state as well as several other programs. We all wish Dana the best and thank him for all his hard work.

In order to continue to be a leading beekeeping organization, we now need to focus our attention toward the future and OSBA needs your support in order to carry out our mission. It takes many volunteers with commitment to accomplish our goals. We already have the expertise; we need volunteers to help along the way. This includes volunteers at the local grass root level that will help at the regional and state level as well.

Next year we look forward to the continuation and improvement of the Master Beekeeper Program. There were several great suggestions for improvement at the recent board of directors meeting and the master beekeeper committee is working to construct a more definite outline of criteria required, give better direction to classes offered and help the instructors with topics to be covered.

Much discussion was heard during the board meeting about the Ohio Queen Initiative. Local and regional stock is important to the success of Ohio beekeepers. This program has huge potential not only in Ohio but working with adjoining states. Many surrounding states already have these types of programs in existence and have indicated their interest in working with us.

Over the years OSBA has been involved with several of these particular programs only to see them start and stop according to the current administrations goals and directions. This program is vital to Ohio beekeepers and cannot be accomplished during any one administration. That being said, OSBA will now focus its support toward a separate program. One that is independent of any administration. Actually the only change will be in the administration of the program, not the function. Everything is already in place. We have the same great committee and the same goals. You will hear much more on this, so stay tuned.

As part of a grant, (thanks to John Grafton, Joe Kovaleski, Ron Hoopes and Bob Hooker) Tim Arheit, our webmaster now has the funds to completely renovate our website. Another part of the grant has provided the resources to make a number of videos that will shortly be in place on the website. They cover a number of instructional topics and a wide range of information. Hopefully, now that the season is winding down, Tim will be able devote some time to this big task.

Make sure you mark your calendar for the fall meeting to be held in Columbus on November 3rd. See our website for location and directions. Our Guest speaker will be Danny Slabaugh from Indiana. Danny has been featured in American Bee Journal, is past president of Michiana Beekeepers Association and has been guest speaker at HAS and many other bee meetings. You will enjoy his down to earth approach of keeping bees. Additionally, we have 16 other breakout sessions. All except the beginning beekeeper series are approved for the master beekeeper program. When you pre-register on-line it helps in our planning and you'll save five bucks as well over the late registration/walk-in fee.

Many dedicated members attended the September 29th board of directors meeting. I would like to take this time to thank each of them. Their hard work is a driving force and is what keeps OSBA going. The minutes will be on line soon, please take advantage and review them.

In closing, I would also like to mention Terry Lieberman Smith and thank her for all the hard work she does as Editor of our newsletter.

Hope to see all of you at the fall meeting.
OSBA Mission

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

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

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

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Specialty Crop Block Grant Update

John Grafton

The Specialty Crop Block Grant—Beekeeping has entered the final stages. The grant saw a number of set backs as it progressed, however in the end the intended goals have been met.

The financial obligation of OSBA was met through the volunteer efforts of John Grafton, Jim Tew, Ron Hoopes, Bob Hooker, Joe Kovaleski and Sherry Ferrell. Their efforts produced a plan for the overall grant, two queen producer workshops, an improved OSBA website, and guidance throughout the project. Jim and John have been working this past summer developing a series of videos and power points that will be accessible via the OSBA website.

The Ohio Produce Growers and Market Association (OPGMA) administrators of the grant will have a final report prepared for submission to the Ohio Department of Agriculture in January 2013.

Stay tuned and watch for an announcement as to when and how you will be able to access the videos on the website.

Ohio Beekeeping is the official publication of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions are included with membership in OSBA. Send news about your bees and your experiences, as well as your corrections, letters, comments, photographs and stories, interviews, and added requests to:

Terry Lieberman Smith, PO Box 24181, Dayton, OH 45424

Or e-mail: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com.
OSBA FALL PROGRAM
AGENDA

8:00 – 9:00  Registration (coffee, orange juice, pastries)
9:00 – 9:30  Presidents Welcome & Introductions & Election of Officers Voting, and Beekeeper of the Year presentation
9:30 – 10:00  Jim Thompson to announce new members into the Beekeepers Hall of Fame
10:00 – 10:30  Mr. Danny Slabaugh Key Note Speaker
10:30 – 10:45  Break (Visit the vendors)

10:45 – 11:30  **Break-out Session I**
   A. Beginning Beekeeping  Terry Eddy
   B. Reading Your Hives, Part 1  Bill Starrett
   C. Raising Your Own Queens  Danny Slabaugh
   D. Marketing Your Honey  Isaac & Jayne Barnes

11:30 – 11:45  Break (Visit the Vendors)

11:45 – 12:30  **Break-out Session II**
   A. Beginning Beekeeping, spring into Summer  Terry Lieberman Smith
   B. Reading Your Hives, Part 2  Bill Starrett
   C. The Importance of Using Northern Queens  Danny Slabaugh
   D. ODA requirements for selling honey  Lowell Lufkin, ODA

12:30 – 1:15  Lunch

1:15 – 2:00  **Break-out Session III**
   A. Beginning Beekeeping, Fall into Winter  Alex Zomchek
   B. Getting Ready for Spring  Joe Kovaleski
   C. Top Bar Hives, Part I Equipment  Mike Bakan
   D. Preparing Honey and Products for Show  Carmen Conrad

2:00 – 2:15  Break (Visit the Vendors)

2:15 – 3:00  **Break-out Session IV**
   A. Top Bar Hives, Part II, Management  Mike Bakan
   B. Controlling Pest of the Hive  John Grafton
   C. Nuc’s for backup  Tim Arheit
   D. Soap Making  Dave Duncan

3:15 – 3:45  Closing remarks, drawings and results of elections and business meeting

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Vendors list—— see back page!
Meet Your OSBA Fall Conference Instructors

Danny Slabaugh

My beekeeping started some 20 years ago when I read that if I pollinate the apple blossoms with bees the fruit will be bigger and rounder. So as most bee-havers do, you start with having the intentions of just owning one hive. That hive survived after all the daily and then weekly inspections I gave them, this fascination about nature was the start of many life changing adventures I could share with you.

The wood working and carpenter day jobs I have had in my past worked well for me in making my own equipment to keep the cost down as my hobby kept expanding to today’s 40 some pollination and honey producing hives and the 90+ five frame nucs that I care for. The last five years most of my beekeeping has turned to producing and selling northern Indiana overwintered nucs in the spring time with queens that I grafted the summer before.

After the nucs sell out of the boxes they become queen rearing boxes for 3 months in the summer. Then they are reset to overwintered nucs for the next season. I have also developed a bee candy that is sold nationally in brick form, this started after I made 23 pound candy boards that are inverted on top of the brood chamber in the late fall as and insurance policy for the hives that would survive the winter and then die of starvation in February and March.

I have a small business selling supplies to fellow beekeepers and doing custom extracting in a state inspected honey room, I will tell you there is never a lack of things to learn and do around 9 bee yards that are scattered around a 20 mile radius. My joy and rewards come from watching first and second year beekeepers get excited about caring for bees in their own area. Contact Danny at: dslabaugh@embarqmail.com

Joe Kovaleski

Joe has been keeping bees for 19 years. This all started out as a Boy Scout Beekeeping Merit Badge project with his younger son and two hives. Joe teaches beekeeping to boy scouts, girl scouts and 4H. He also does presentations for schools, garden clubs, and other beekeeping organizations.

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

Joe, along with his wife Suzan, produce beeswax candles and honey for sale at many fairs and festivals, and have won many best of show and blue ribbons in honey and molded wax contests, to recently include the 2012 EAS Bee Culture Magazine Award for Beeswax, and the 2012 West Virginia State Beekeepers Best of Show Awards for Comb Honey, Extracted Honey, and Beeswax.

Joe is currently the Crossroads Region director for the Ohio State Beekeepers Assoc. Joe is part of the new Ohio Queen Initiative, and also a member of the West Virginia Queen Producers Assoc., raising queens in the northern panhandle. Contact Joe at: Josephkovaleski@sbcglobal.net

Mike Bakan

Mike Bakan was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio where he now works as a computer engineer. During a storm a hollow tree fell in his yard containing a bee-hive. Shortly after he read an article about top bar hives that sparked his interest in keeping bees. Two years ago Mike and his wife, Deedra, took a beginner beekeeping class offered by Greene County Parks and Trails. They started with one Top Bar hive and 3 Langstroth Hives. They now have 6 Langstroth hives and 2 Top Bar Hives. In addition to keeping bees they produce maple syrup in the early spring. Contact Mike at: mike.bakan@zoomtown.com

Terry Eddy

Terry has been a beekeeper in Central Ohio for many years starting with two hives and currently manages 18 -20 hives throughout Central Ohio.

Important areas of beekeeping include grafting queens to be mite resistant with the emphasis on overwintering. Another area of importance is the overwintering of nucs to be available for sale in the spring.

Terry has been a leader in the bee yard owned and operated by the Central Ohio Beekeepers Association (COBA). He was Vice President and is current President of COBA and a speaker for the COBA bee school.

(Continued on page 6)
Meet Your Instructors (Continued from page 5)

He was a presenter at the Tri-County Beekeepers meetings in Wooster in 2011 and 2012 and the 2012 OSBA Summer Meeting.

Terry is also enrolled in the Master Beekeeping Program offered by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association.

Bill Starrett

Although his first exposure to bees was during a baseball game when a swarm passed through, he has been keeping bees since 1964. He served 14 years as Greene County Bee Inspector, and am an active member of Greene County Beekeepers Association. He has taught beekeeping classes for Greene County Parks & Trails for the past 15 years. Bill recently earned the designation of OSBA Certified Master Beekeeper Instructor. Contact Bill at: billthebeeman@att.net

Isaac and Jayne Barnes

Isaac and Jayne Barnes of Honeyrun Farm have been beekeeping for 9 years, and currently keep 250 hives near their farm in Williamsport, Ohio.

They sell seasonal and infused honey, handcrafted soap made with honey and beeswax, beeswax candles, and bee pollen. In 2011, Isaac quit his job as a teacher so he could focus his energy on beekeeping full-time, and has thoroughly enjoyed the venture. They sell their products at Columbus farmer's markets, online, and through a variety of retail outlets such as Whole Foods, The Greener Grocer, Green Bean Delivery and several other area markets. Their website is www.honeyrunfarm.com.

Carmen Conrad

Carmen married into beekeeping 25 years ago and now works around 75 hives with her husband Barry. She has won blue ribbons at county, state and national honey competitions, "Winning Best of Show" of all honey entries at the OSF honey show this year. Since becoming a honey show judge she has judged many shows, including Warren Co. Fair, Picway Co. Fair, Lorraine Co. Fair and the Circleville Pumpkin Show. Contact Carmen at: carmen@hivyandhoney.com

John Grafton

John retired from the Ohio Department of Agriculture in 2008 after spending 32 years with the apiary inspection program. He started keeping bees in 1964 with a 4-H project and has had bees ever since.

Two of the awards John has received are the OSBA Ohio Beekeeper of the year award and the Exceptional Service Award presented by the Apiary Inspectors of America. John has held various offices in OSBA and is a past president of the organization. He is currently working with Jim Tew to develop a series of videos for the beginning beekeeper. John and his wife Katie reside near Bloomingdale, Oh in Jefferson county with their children Amanda and Clinton nearby.

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Terry has been involved with beekeeping for the past eight years. She is active with two local bee associations as newsletter editor and Board member, has worked with local municipalities to develop bee-friendly zoning, and is an assistant instructor in a multi-week beekeeping class through a County Parks program. Terry enjoys spending time in the apiary, and plans to focus on some new apiary adventures next year. Contact Terry at: smithfarmpurehoney@woh.rr.com

Alex Zomchek

While the President of a consulting business for data intensive projects during the day, Alex transforms into a beekeeper outside of work. He has been managing his own hives since the age of twelve. He is committed to public awareness and education concerning the importance of beekeeping in today's block crop farming society.

He sits on several beekeeping boards, is a Honey Judge at the Butler County Fair, and is a popular guest lecturer in the Greater Cincinnati area. He has a hard time saying "no" when it comes to educating the public!

Alex currently runs an active honey bee research program at Miami University's Ecology Research Center. He is also an OSBA Master Beekeeper Instructor. Contact Alex at: azomchea@miamioh.edu or Ohio-Honey@woh.rr.com.

(Continued on page 19)
OSBA Fun at the Ohio State Fair

Beekeeping was once again represented at the Ohio state fair in 2012! Not only was honey, judging reinstated, but also OSBA put together an exciting multi-day beekeeping program under the 60x 100 foot tent.

OSBA would like to thank Dana Stahlman, John George, and Nina Bagley for their tireless work to make this first year back successful and memorable. Also, thanks goes to the Ohio Exposition Committee and The Ohio State Fair for inviting beekeeping back the state level.

Twice a day, beekeepers amazed the crowd by “putting on” a bee beard. Great thanks goes out to our bee beard demonstrators: Barry Conrad, John Lennon, Mike Albaugh, Arnold Crabtree, John Chadwell, Jim Tippie, Bob Markowski, Ray Alley, John Chapman, and the American Honey Queen Alyssa Fine . The demonstrators sat in a netted area. Volunteers poured skeps of bees over the brave bearders. This was one of the most popular photo ops in the tent.

Alyssa Fine, American Honey Queen, also showed the crowd how to incorporate honey into their diet by demonstrating some easy to make recipes that use honey as a sweetener.

Many local associations also had educational tables at the fair. Visitors to the tent were able to ask beekeepers about bees and beekeeping. Vendors sold honey and other related bee products.

Nina Bagley provided the bee-hole games and the bee cutout that was used for photo-ops. Nina also worked with a Oakland Nursery , a local company, to provide bee friendly plants on display in the apiary in the tent. She also lined up Dennis Lamb, who donated his trailer so that we could safely store items each night.

On display in the tent, were assorted educational tables along with a display board that contain brochures about all the clubs in each OSBA region. This display was quite popular with fairgoers. ODA also had a display table.

Jim Thompson, OSBA Member and author of “A Handbook for Honey Judges and Beekeepers Exhibiting Hive Products”, judged all the honey entries at the fair. This was the first time in many years that beekeepers across the state of the Ohio could have their honey judged at the state level. Many entries were received not only for hive products, but also for baked goods using honey as the sole sweetener. OSBA would like to thank all the participants who helped support honey judging’s first year back at the Ohio State Fair by entering their hive products.

If you missed out on all the exciting events this year, don’t worry. Next year is just around the corner. Come to the OSBA fall meeting and take Carmen Conrad’s class in how to enter honey products at the fair!

Overflowing with thanks.

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(Some restrictions apply)
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Welcome to the OSBA Fair Tent at the Ohio State Fair 2012

Dana Stahlman, photographer

Ohio Honey Queen Alyssa Fine

OSBA Apiary Display

Display Map of Regions and Clubs

Display Board with Local Association Info
Who is looking at Who? The Observation Hive

Albert and the girls!

Honey Judging Results

Become a Bee!

See more photos on our website!
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.
The Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers' Association has enjoyed a good year. Their membership has grown to over eighty, with new visitors at nearly every meeting. Spring swarm and removal calls greatly increased due to a local newspaper article. The club manned an informational booth during the WV Honey Festival at the end of August. Plans are now being made for the 10th Annual Honeybee Expo, an all day event, with classes ranging from beginners to advanced. The keynote speaker (tentative) this year is Dr. Greg Hunt, honeybee specialist at Purdue University. The tentative date is February 2, 2013. Last year’s attendance was over 320, guest, vendors, speakers, and club members. Meeting location will be WVU campus at Parkersburg, WV. The club is also discussing mentoring youth who are interested in beekeeping as either a 4-H or FFA project. www.angelfire.com/nb/movba

Director Tom Rathbun, with the Erie Basin Region reported that at the Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association’s monthly meeting in October, with over 30 members in attendance, they discussed donating 6 ounce honey bears to the area food pantries for the upcoming holidays. Over 300 bears have been passed out and will be filled up by its members. The bears will be collected and the passed out in November and December.

SRVBA also took part in the “Explore Your Backyard” activity at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds. Fourth grade participants from school districts in the county attended the two-day event. The club’s beekeeping topic was well received by the 400 students and teachers.

Dick Mullet, OSBA Crossroads Representative, reports that Tri-County Beekeepers Association has had a busy year that starts out with the spring workshop the first Saturday in March. The club is involved with a “Bugs” day at OSU/ATI and a Kids’ Day for the City of Wooster. For beekeepers, one club member posts and extraction party for anyone who has honey was no way to extract. The club finished off their year with their annual business meeting and Pie Extravaganza in November. Everyone brings a pie to share. Last year they had 20 pies and lots of happy attendees.

Coshocton County Beekeepers were able to increase their membership through the clubs beginning beekeeping classes. He club built their own apiary that the use for training and racing packages for club members. The club helped promote beekeeping by using their apiary for a field day. This event drew beekeepers from as far as 50 miles away. The club also provided speakers for several activities including 400 fourth-graders at Farm Bureau AG day and they made a strong presence at the County fair. Club is looking forward to 2013 to build on a grade 2012.

The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association is ending their year with a mini plant swap. Another interesting endeavor for the club: A local hotel has worked with the club in order to establish an apiary on the roof of the hotel.

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Common questions about Honey Production and Sales in Ohio

Compiled by Barb Bloetscher, ODA State Apiarist, Lowell Lufkin, Ohio Department of Agriculture, and Denise Ellsworth, OSU Department of Entomology  Feb. 22, 2012

Q. If I sell honey directly from my house, does the container need a label?
A. Regardless of whether or not the honey is sold from home, a market or elsewhere, any food product must have a label. Even if the food is given or traded, it still has to have a label. The address on the label should have the business address where the “corporate office does paperwork,” which is where ever the bills are received. If the company advertises in the local phone book, the address in the phone book can be used, or a P.O. Box affiliated with the business.

See the Ohio Revised Code: 3715.023 Labels for cottage food production operation, processor, or beekeeper.

(A) A cottage food production operation and a maple syrup or sorghum processor and beekeeper described in division (A) of section 3715.021 of the Revised Code shall label each of their food products and include the following information on the label of each of their food products:
(1) The name and address of the business of the cottage food production operation, processor, or beekeeper;
(2) The name of the food product;
(3) The ingredients of the food product, in descending order of predominance by weight;
(4) The net weight and volume of the food product;
(5) In the case of a cottage food production operation, the following statement in ten-point type: “This product is home produced.”

(B) Food products identified and labeled in accordance with division (A) of this section are acceptable food products that a retail food establishment or food service operation licensed under Chapter 3717. of the Revised Code may offer for sale or use in preparing and serving food.

Q. Do I need to wash new jars or containers?
A. Some jars are labeled that they were produced and maintained/stored under sanitary conditions. If the jars are loosely wrapped or the source of the jars is questionable, it is worth washing and sanitizing. Mold, hairs or other items must not be in the honey. Honey can be examined and if the amount of inert items is higher than the maximal allowed, the honey processor would be fined.

Q. My health department says that if the club wants to give out honey samples at a honey harvest or county fair we need a food handler’s license.
A. The local health department can interpret the rules for the situation. Check with the local Health Department first.

Q. Does the label need to be glued to the container or can I use a hang-tag?
A. The label should be “secured”, however if the jars are an unusual shape and sold for a special occasion and the label cannot be affixed, it can be attached as a card.

(Continued on page 19)
Ohio 4-H Youth Development Pollinator Project Mini-Grants

The OSU Department of Entomology is offering five $500 grants to Ohio 4-H Youth Development faculty/staff for educational projects related to pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, butterflies and others.

Projects must be educational, pollinator-related and youth-focused. Suggestions include but are not limited to: a “how-to” factsheet, the development of an educational pollinator habitat (prairie, butterfly or bee garden), a lesson plan, display, demonstration hive, establishment of a youth honey bee interest group, podcast, 4-H’er created video, a pollinator patch in a “Farm to School” project, etc.

The OSU Pollinatarium is a small interpretive space where visitors can learn about the power and importance of pollinators. The Pollinatarium is sponsored by the Department of Entomology, and is physically housed on the OARDC Wooster campus. Besides an on-campus location, we envision a “Virtual Pollinatarium” where anyone with Internet access can learn about pollinators though videos, image libraries, lesson plans and project examples.

At the end of the project period (July, 2013), funded mini-grant projects will submit an electronic “product” to be shared on the Pollinatarium website, such as a lesson plan, fact sheet, YouTube video, project summary with images, or other appropriate electronic product.

Proposals should be submitted by Ohio 4-H faculty/staff, or by teams including 4-H, ANR or FCS staff, Extension volunteers (4-H, OCVN, Master Gardeners) and/or 4-H participants. At least one author needs to be a 4-H faculty/staff member.

To apply for this funding, complete the submission form on Googledocs: http://go.osu.edu/pollinator-mini-grants

The application contains the following sections:

- Describe your project. Be sure to include who, what, where, when and why. You can type directly into the on-line form or cut and paste from a word document.

- How does this project help to further the impact of the OSU Pollinatarium? See OSU Pollinatarium logic model document for desired impacts:

(Continued on page 22)
Thanks to Jim Thompson, I have some electronic versions of past OSBA newsletters, articles and digests. It is always interesting to read past magazine, newsletters and other beekeeping literature. You get to peek in on what were the hot topics of the time, and glean some great info that may not be in current popular books. As I was perusing the 1992 Newsletter,:

**FALL MEETING AGENDA**
Saturday—November 14, 1992

8:30–9:00 Registration and Conversation
9:00 - 9:15 Announcements and Orientation
9:15–10:00 Workshops
   Room A Treating Tracheal Mites
   Room C Tracheal Mite Biology
   Room B Assembling Equipment
10:00—10:30 Break
10:30—11:15 Workshops
   Room A Treating Tracheal Mites
   Room B Beekeeping Equipment

11:15–12:00 Public Relations, Fire Depts. And Honey Bee Emergencies
12:00—1:30 Lunch
12:30—1:30 Directors Meeting
1:30—2:00 p.m. TV, Technology and Beekeeping
2:00—2:45 p.m. Lyme Disease and Beekeeping
2:45—3:00 Break
3:00—4:00 p.m. Business Meeting

Want to Attend an OSBA Fall Conference in 1992 or 2002?

Achieving a pest control goal was to use grease patties (shortening mixed with confectioner’s sugar). Many beekeepers kept the patties in almost year round. We can’t do that now since the small hive beetle (one of our recent banes to beekeeping) seem to like the patties.

Agendas from past workshops help provide us with insight into issues that were hot topics at that time. Today, few beekeepers worry about Tracheal Mites, but twenty years ago, they were a plague to bees and beekeepers alike. Tracheal mites were wiping out colonies and beekeepers were looking for ways to fight back. One of the main ways to treat for tracheal mites was to use grease patties (shortening mixed with confectioner’s sugar). Many beekeepers kept the patties in almost year round. We can’t do that now since the small hive beetle (one of our recent banes to beekeeping) seem to like the patties.

Let’s take a peek at a meeting only 10 years ago:

8:30  Registration
9:00  Welcome
9:15  EAS 2005 in Ohio
9:30  Ornamental Plant Germplasm
10:00 Ohio Inspection Program
10:30  Break—Visit Vendors
11:00 Pollination on a Small Scale
11:45 Elections
12:00  Lunch — on your own
1:30  Beekeeper of the Year & Honorary Life Members
1:45  Perils of Pollination
2:15  Break
2:30  IPM Thresholds
3:15  West Virginia’s Inspection Program
3:45  Raffle and Election Results

Obviously pollination was a hot topic in 1992.

Did you notice one of the main differences between the recent Fall Conferences and past ones? The variety of topics, of course! This year we have many choices for you to select at each break out session.

Each Break-Out Session has 4 choices, and since there are 4 Break-Out Sessions, that means a total of 16 classes. These conferences are a great way to fulfill your Master Beekeeper Program educational requirements, pre-order equipment from vendors, and meet beekeepers from around the state.
Experiences of a First Year Top Bar Hive Beekeeper

Deedra and Michael Bakan

After introducing the bees I inspected the hive once a week. When inspecting the hives, first remove the top cover and then move one of the follower boards out. I then remove one top bar at a time. Prior to removing a top bar, you want to make sure the comb is not attached to the side of the hive. From what I read, this is not suppose to happen, but from my experience the bees do attach the comb to the side. I think this is just to help support the comb and it is easily cut away by running your hive tool along the side. When you are removing the top bar, be careful to hold it with the comb hanging down vertical to the ground. The new comb is very soft and if you hold the comb horizontal to the ground, you risk breaking off the comb. You also may weaken the comb where it attaches to the top bar which may not be apparent at the time of inspection. While I was inspecting the hives last year, I started to turn the comb to inspect it. As I turned the comb, it was horizontal to the ground and it started to bend. I quickly faced the comb vertical to the ground and it did not break off. I thought the comb survived this and replaced it in the hive. The following week I went out to inspect the hives to find I had a jumble of comb lying on the bottom of the hive that bees had started to repair and build upon. This was a mess to clean up as it was full of bees and honey. Once I started to remove this from the hive, the comb broke and the honey was exposed. The bees then became very agitated and got defensive in the only way they know, with stingers out..... Not a mistake I wish to repeat. Once the comb has had time to age and harden you can then turn the comb to inspect it. But make sure not to hold the comb horizontal to the ground -- always turn it so the comb is perpendicular to the ground. You still risk breaking the comb or damaging the attachment point to the top bar.

During inspections be very vigilant on the cross comb. This is where the bees do not follow the guides on the top bars and the comb will attach 2 or three bars together, as shown above. The bees will attach the top bars to each other and make it difficult to remove one bar at a time. Also when you have cross comb and try to remove the bars, you will break the comb and expose the honey, putting the bees into a defensive mode. As described above, the bees will become very agitated and get defensive in the only way they know -- with stingers out..... My recommendation is to remove the cross comb and replace the top bar with a new one. Once you get a few straight combs, you can introduce new bars in-between 2 bars with straight comb and this will help the bees build straight comb and help prevent the cross comb situation. As the bees fill out the top bars, I then add bars once they have 4 of the seven bars filled out, and move the follower board. 3 bars seemed to be enough to cover the quail feeder. I would continue to feed the bees as needed with a 2-1 water to sugar solution. When replacing the top bars, remember to clean off any propolis or wax off the top bars in between each bar as any debris prevents the top bars from keeping the 1 3/8 inch spacing. I would recommend opening the hives at least once a week and keep up on the cross comb. Once you get cross comb, it is difficult to get rid of. I read on line about 2 beekeepers with top bar hives. One was in their hive a lot and kept up on the cross comb situation. The other did not get in their hive until late in the summer. By that time the cross comb was way out of control and there was no way to inspect the hive without cutting out a lot of comb.

I started my TBH hive last year and was able to get a significant number of bees and comb to fill out 80-90% of the hive. I believed there were plenty of stores to get the hive through winter. In the fall I tried
Top Bar Hives... (Continued from page 15)

to make sure the bees were at one end. The thought was similar to a Langstroth hive where the bees would work their way up to the top and not go back down. The idea with TBH is that the bees will work their way from one end of the hive to the other and not go back in the other direction. Due to the warm weather this winter it was recommended to feed our bees to assure they had enough stores to get them into spring. On a warm sunny day in the end of February I went out to feed the bees to learn that the hive was empty except for a few dead bees. Upon inspection of the hive I noticed that there was still some honey left in the hive but no capped brood. This leaves me to believe that the bees may have moved on to better quarters, hopefully to one of my other Langstroth hives that seem to be flourishing with bees. I plan on repopulating the TBH again this year and possibly putting out one additional TBH to see if I can get them through next winter and keep them in the hive.

In summary, I would recommend trying a TBH as I believe it does have a place in beekeeping. If your intent is to produce a lot of honey, probably not the best option for you. But if you want to keep bees, do not want to store a lot of equipment, desire to harvest smaller amounts of honey and wax, and keep bees for pollination purposes, the TBH may be the right way to go. In any event, it was a good experience for me and I will keep trying but I will not abandon my Langstroth hives just yet as I still have a lot more to learn.

What to do with Your Cleaned Wax
Terry Lieberman-Smith

Your wax cappings are clean and ready to use (see last quarter’s newsletter on how to clean cappings). Now what? If you are not quite sure how to market or use your wax, here are some ideas:

Candles—Most candles use quite a bit of wax. However, “tea candles” use minimal wax and still make great gifts. You can buy molds for these at any big box craft store.

Lubricate nails or screws. Wax helps prevent split wood and also helps to resist corrosion. Know any woodworkers? If you have a drawer or wooden window that sticks, rub some beeswax on it to solve the problem.

Grafting wax for plants. Using a double boiler, melt together equal portions of beeswax and plant resin. Do not expose the wax to flames! Allow the mix to cool a bit and then roll it into sticks. Wrap in waxed paper and store in a cool, dry place.

Salves, balms, lotions! I will include some recipes next quarter. Winter is the only time I have to put these together!
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.

Ron Hoopes

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

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

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

Farewell to George Brenneman " A tribute by the Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association"

The Northwest Ohio Beekeeper’s took a few moment of silence and then warmly reminisced the generous life of our past treasurer and former OSBA director George Brenneman.

He was remembered by all as a gentle man who kept the club’s books in meticulous fashion, always offered to help at club functions, and was highly versed in the ways of beekeeping.

Every year he made available to members his home made swarm lures. He was quick to try new tactics in his beekeeping and share the results, positive or negative. He was a good motivator for novice beekeepers attending all of the clubs introductory courses and answering questions when posed to him. He also worked as a machinist and later ran a small engine repair shop and yard maintenance equipment sales. He took great care of his wife Jolene during her illness and always maintained a positive outlook on life. We will miss you George!

George was the OSBA "Beekeeper of the Year in 2003". He served as an OSBA Director 1997 - 2002 and 2004 - 2008.

Farewell to George Brenneman " A tribute by the Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association"

The following is a tribute written by Sherry Ferrell:

Jim's dad, Mr. James R. Tew, was a great guy. He owned a Sherwin Williams paint store for many, many years. He was also an avid gardener and beekeeper for quite some time. Even in his later years Don, Jim's middle brother, helped him with his hives. He was noted for his morning breakfast that he made for family and guests when visiting. I was lucky to partake in a few of the breakfast. Mr. Tew had an understated sense of humor and was very active in his church. I always enjoyed visiting with Mr. & Mrs. Tew when they came to Ohio.

James R. Tew, father of Dr. Jim Tew passed away in the early hours of Sunday morning, August 12, 2012 near their home in Alabama.

Roger Hornyak, 79, passed away August 29, 2012. Lived in Avon, Ohio, and was a member of the Lorain County Beekeepers for several years.
Now that it is October the hives should be well prepared for winter with enough food until nectar is available. No hive die of starvation in the spring after it has survived the winter. Of course fondant or candy bricks can be put on top bars above the cluster at anytime during the winter but one must be prepared and knowledgeable about the food situation before it is too late to remedy the problem.

Keeping mice out of hives once the weather turns cool and the bees are less active is important because mice do major damage to combs and frames while building nests. The defecation they leave behind makes a hive filthy and makes it smell like a two seat outhouse. I use #2 or #4 hardware cloth in hive entrances to keep mice out because mice frequently enlarge the entrance slot in wood entrance reducers to gain entry.

Number 2 hardware cloth has ½” mesh, large enough that bees are able to remove dead bees but not without some difficulty. Number 2 also keeps out all but the smallest mice. That size is readily available in hardware stores and lumber yards. Number 4 hardware cloth is not as readily available, has ¼” mesh that allows the bees in and out, but bees can’t remove any dead bees through such a small opening. I cut the hardware cloth into strips 3” wide and an inch longer than half the width of the hive entrance. By using two of these strips overlapped in the middle they can be used in any hive entrance no matter the width and doesn’t make it necessary to custom cut pieces to fit each hive when hive entrance widths may vary slightly.

By bending the hardware cloth strips in the middle lengthwise I can push them into the entrance between the bottom board and the bottom box with a hive tool and they will normally stay in place without being stapled. Sometimes skunks feeding on bees will pull the entrance screens out and that makes it necessary to staple the screens to the bottom board. Wood entrance reducers can be mouse proofed by covering them with aluminum coil so mice can’t enlarge the entrance slot.

Upper ventilation is critical to successful wintering. Moisture that is released as bees consume honey can condense above the cluster and then drip on it chilling and killing them, so an upper entrance can allow the moist air to exit the hive. Pebbles on each corner of the inner cover, or upholstery tacks on the corners will hold the telescoping cover up allowing the moisture to escape.

Another technique to improve wintering is to use an insulated cover. Bee Culture ran an article by Roy Hendrickson in 2001 outlining the procedure and the value in an article about creating summer splits for overwintering to make spring increase. A piece of high density Styrofoam enclosed inside an old super keeps moisture from condensing above the winter cluster because the top doesn’t get cold enough for condensation to form. It also conserves the heat the bees generate and reduces the amount of honey consumed to maintain cluster temperature. An upper ventilation hole or slit is provided in the rim of the insulated cover to allow the moist air to escape. This technique makes it possible to winter bees in a single deep, or as I have done numerous times, two 5 frame nuc boxes.

Lastly, don’t forget to provide protection from the winter winds. Bees can withstand the cold much better than the wind. Even exposure to a steady summer wind can be detrimental to colony survival.

**Publication Discounts**

- **Bee Culture**, A.I. Root Co. Publisher.
  - Reg. - $25.00
  - **OSBA DISCOUNT** - $20.00

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

- **Speedy Bee**
  - Troy Fore, Publisher
  - Reg:  $17.25
  - **OSBA DISCOUNT**: $13.25
**Common Questions**... *(Continued from page 12)*

Q. **What exactly needs to go on the label, weight in ounces or grams?**
A. If sold ON SITE, the label must declare the net weight in the U.S. Customary System, but does not have to have the weight in metric. If sold OFF SITE it must have both.

Q. **Is honey a cottage industry?**
A. No. Honey is not considered to be a cottage industry. Honey is considered a different entity, as is maple syrup and sorghum. Beekeepers are exempt from these regulations UNLESS less than 75% of the honey processed is from their own hives (eg. Sue Bee). Beekeepers who spin and sell their own honey should not need a license.

A small honey processor is a food processor, but is exempt from registration and inspection by the Division of Food Safety. Processors who do not comply with the small honey processor regulations are subject to registration and inspection by the Division of Food Safety, as a food processing establishment.

If a complaint is made, the honey kitchen may be inspected by Food Safety Officials. An Apiary Inspector CAN inspect the processing plant if they suspect a problem.

**Meet Your Instructors** *(Continued from page 6)*

**Tim Arheit**

Tim Arheit has been involved with beekeeping for over 12 years. Tim started raising a few queens for his own apiary, and when he had some extra queens, he started selling them to local beekeepers. His business, Honey Run Apiaries now sells hundreds of queens and queen cells each year. Honey Run also sells packages, nucs and other beekeeping supplies. Tim is the OSBA Webmaster and Vice-President. He is also a Master Beekeeper Instructor. Contact Tim at: tarheit@honeyrunapiaries.com

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www.queenrightcolonies.com

www.LORAINCOUNTYBEEKEEPERS.ORG
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.
Consider showing your support of OSBA by adding your name to the list in 2013!

Ray Alley
William Allinder
Douglas Angerman
Tim Arheit
Kevin Atkins
Scott Ball
David Barrickman
Mike Bentz
Samuel Black
Adam Bode
Daniel Bollett
Michael Bradford
Gail Brockman
Frederick Burdell
Lorenzo Butts
Alta Casdorph
David Crawford
Braxton Cummings
Sue & Joe Daly
Lee Darst
William Dehoff
Charles & Bonnie Dennison
Jeff & Sheila Dicken
Leonard Dyko
Jeff Eick
Sherry Ferrell
Peter & Nancy Ferron
Stewart Flaherty
Kim Flottum
Chuck & Peggy Garnes
Steve Geiger
George A. Glaze
John Grafton
Merle Griffith
Robert Haag
Mark Hammond
Susan Hamrick
Gary Hardwick
Duane Hathaway
Sue Heffner
James Higgins
Ron Hoopes
Darrell Hopps
Jerry Joe Jacobson
Mike Jessee
Rick & Becky Johnston
Bert Kaiser
Daniel Kaminski
Scott Keister
Paul Lane
Troy Leibengood
Ken Lightle
Charles Lindquist
Chris Lovett
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George Moresea
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Robert Opperman
Dick Osborne
Deb Owens
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Robert Rae
Don Rahmann
Dora Richardson
Tony Rimkus
Lisa Rollens
Raymond Rudloff
Gail Russell
Joe & Julie Saluke
John Schick
Michael Shafer
Carlton Simpson
Ben Slay
John Smith
Dana Stahlman
Darrell Stoller
David Strecker
Dr. Jim Tew
James Thompson
Vic Thompson
James Tippie
Ervin J. Troyer
Rick Wagner
Wayne B. Wagner
Dwight C. Wells
Ronald Willison
Dwight Wilson
Dick Wise
Karen E. Wood
Elizabeth Yates
Budget Friendly Beekeeping—Staying Ahead of the Curve

Terry Lieberman-Smith

You can save money in beekeeping, almost any time of year, even when the girls are in for the winter. So let’s look at some ways to plan ahead to save money.

Voting season means all of those lovely corrugated plastic signs lining the streets. Although some people view them as visual pollution, I see “white” boards for my screen bottom hives, and even traps to help reduce small hive beetle population in hives. Contact your zoning inspector once voting season is over so that you can legally acquire these signs.

Another way to save money is buying items on sale. S’mores season is officially on, so why not stock up on marshmallows while they’re on sale. Even if they are stale, marshmallows are a key ingredient in microwave made fondant as emergency feed for your bees in the winter.

Sugar also goes on sale this time of year since baking season is also just around the corner. Just be aware to check the price per pound of sugar, because some stores sell 4 pound bags while others sell 5 pound bags.

Many local thrift stores are advertising special deals or even have coupons in the newspaper. My favorite thrift store offers a five dollars-off coupon if you purchase $10 or more. If you can get a few coupons (ask friends to save them for you) and make a few visits, you can save a lot of money.

In my house, we’ve already decided the containers for the holiday gift baskets. We have a bunch of very nice chipwood berry baskets that will be the perfect holder for yummy jars filled with honey and other tasty homemade goods. In past years, the containers have been either baskets (purchased at thrift stores), felt lunch bags (directions found on-line), and even colorful plastic planters filled with home-baked goods and seeds to spread the bee friendly garden theme.

If you attend the OSB conference, many of the vendors will allow you to place your order ahead of time, and they will bring your items to the conference, which will save you money on shipping and handling.

Carpooling to the event will also save you money, as Reynoldsburg, is not nearby for most of us. Just make sure the car is large enough for passengers and inventory!

Some beekeepers use insulated lid to help moderate the temperature during the winter in the hives. A beekeeper who I know and respect uses he hard foam insulation that you can find in the big-box hardware stores for his insulated hives. He has a very interesting way of accumulating the Styrofoam. Whenever he sees these sheets that have fallen off construction trucks, he stops along the roadside and picks them up. Truly a creative and money-saving way to get your product. I can just see him pulling over scrambling down the hill and coming back with his trophy of instal-

(Continued on page 22)
Ohio Beekeeping

Grant (Continued from page 13)

http://go.osu.edu/pollinatarium_logic_model

- What educational product will be created if this project is funded?
- What is your funding request ($500 maximum), and how will the funds be used? Be specific.
- Why should your project receive funding?

Application deadline: November 9, 2012

Projects must be completed (with a summary and an electronic “product” submission) by July 1, 2013.

Refer to the following websites for a few project ideas (suggestions only!):

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/4hplantandsoils/pollinationphotos.html
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T69tXic7pxQ (imagine a kid-created video)

Example: use one of these resources to create activities for a 4-H club, classroom or home school group.


Please contact Denise Ellsworth, Program Director, at (ellsworth.2@osu.edu, (330-263-3723)

Budget (Continued from page 21)

I could see myself pulling over, going head over teakettle down the hill, landing in who knows what, and getting a ticket by the state patrol! I guess I’m just not that adventurous. I’ll just go to the big-box store and purchase the dented discount sheet.

Speaking of insulated lids, some beekeepers use shredded paper in an empty deep above the inner cover, to help absorb moisture during the wintertime. Why not consider shredding your newspaper, or even junk mail letters (as long as it’s not on shiny paper) to use as moisture absorbent material. Cedar shavings, think rodent bedding, also can be used as absorbent material and insulation at the same time. A big bag of this product can be purchased at any big box pet store. I use this as inexpensive smoker fuel. It lights quickly, burns evenly, and produces a nice white smoke.

Putting on my editor’s hat, I would like to thank everyone who supported this newsletter. This newsletter belongs to all the beekeepers across the state of Ohio. If you would like to see certain articles, topics, or authors, please let me know and I will do my best to make this newsletter meet your needs.

As I have previously mentioned, your input into this newsletter is instrumental in helping educate other beekeepers, and clubs. Sharing ideas and providing support will help foster great communication and growth among the beekeeping community. I know that some people keep their knowledge close to the vest because they feel that by sharing it, they are somehow giving up something that belongs to them. Kind of the “more for me less for you” mindset. My goal is that this newsletter is a more for me more for you arena, where beekeepers are comfortable sharing and learning.

Next year’s newsletter will have some great contributing authors, expanded club corner, and even more beekeeping info!

Thank you to the vendors who supported this newsletter with their advertising dollars.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming OSBA fall conference. I would bee delighted if you stop me in the hallway and take a moment to chat.

Happy Holidays, stay warm this winter, and here’s to dreaming of a wonderful 2013 beekeeping year

Terry
2012 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION

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

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:
Tim Arheit, OSBA Vice President,
330 Sunderland Rd S
Delphos, OH 45833-9768

Name:                                                                                                      
Address:                                                                                                     
City: __________   State: ___    Zip: __________    County: __________________

Phone: (____) _______ - _______   Email Address (Print neatly) ____________________________

Name of Local Bee Association: __________________________________

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

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

- President’s Letter
- Updates on OSBA Activities
- OSBA Buzz
- OSBA at the Ohio State Fair
- Club Corner— Great Ideas to Share
- Snip & Save Beekeeping Techniques
- And much more!

The girls waiting to become a bee-beard!

Scheduled Vendors at the OSBA Fall Conference

Below are the currently scheduled vendors for our upcoming Fall Conference. Pre-order your items, or bring along your shopping list! You can visit the vendors during registration, breaks, and lunch!

Danny Slabaugh 574-315-5586
Walter T. Kelley 800-233-2899 www.kelleybees.com
Conrad Hive and Honey: 614-837-3899 http://www.hiveandhoney.com
Reid’s Apiary & Bee’tique 740-643-2925 reidapiary@bright.net

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