

**OSBA Master Beekeeper Level  
(\$30.00 Fee for materials and administration)**

The cost of the application will be placed in the Master Program fund and be used to pay for the administration of the testing and the time spent with the applicant by OSBA approved testers.

**Requirements:**

- 1) A candidate for the OSBA Master Beekeeper title must first achieve the level of **OSBA Journeyman beekeeper**.
- 2) An application to be admitted into the Master level must be completed prior to being accepted into the program.
- 3) This application must include a biography of the beekeepers as well as an explanation why the individual wants to be a Master Beekeeper and the individual must be willing to sign a pledge to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner.
- 4) Complete an additional 15 credits of public service. See website for options.
- 5) A person applying for the OSBA Master Beekeeper title will be expected to demonstrate extensive expertise in a number of beekeeping areas. Thus, the candidate will:
  - a) Be able to prove at least five years of beekeeping experience.
  - b) Conduct a bee hive inspection with a Master Beekeeper (EAS or Ohio Certified Master Beekeeper). The candidate will be expected to identify disease problems, management issues, and various bee biology issues for the Master Beekeeper monitoring the hive inspection.
  - c) Pass a general test demonstrating expertise in all areas of beekeeping topics covered by the seminars/workshops sponsored by OSBA. Those taking the test must understand that questions on the test will cover all areas of beekeeping knowledge and the workshops and seminars are designed to help the candidate be successful in the test taking process, but additional study and understanding is required to pass the test.
  - d) Present a program at either the summer or fall general OSBA meeting with the candidate responsible for preparing a power point program and making a copy of this program available to OSBA. The Master beekeepers committee will make a determination on the presentation as to accept it for publication on the OSBA web site.

**Master Instructor Level** is currently under development

**OSBA Master Beekeeping Program  
Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (Print neatly)  
\_\_\_\_\_

County Assn. if any \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed find my fee for:

- 5.00 Apprentice Beekeeper Fee
- 20.00 Journeyman Beekeeper Fee
- 30.00 For Master Beekeeper Fee

Make checks payable to: **Ohio State  
Beekeepers Association**

Mail to: Dana Stahlman  
3075 Mann Rd.  
Blacklick, OH 43004-8725

Visit us at the Ohio State Beekeeper's  
Web site: for up-dates in the Master  
Program

[www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org)

**The OSBA Board of Directors reserves  
the right to make changes in the  
Master's Program**

## Ohio Master Beekeeper Program



Kim Flottum, editor, author, member of the Ohio Beekeepers Hall of Fame and Master Instructor

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association is introducing its OSBA Master Beekeeping Program as a continuation in improving beekeeping education in Ohio.



The program is an intensive four step program – A beginning **Apprentice level**, a **Journeyman level**, a **Masters level**, and a **Master Instructor level**.

Certification by OSBA is designed to give participants the opportunity to increase their beekeeping knowledge. OSBA will provide certificates to all individuals who complete the requirements for each level. Instruction will be provided through a number of class/seminar/workshops certified by OSBA. OSBA will attempt to establish four centers where training for the advanced journeyman level and master levels will be held on a rotating schedule to allow members throughout Ohio to take classes closer to home.

### **OSBA Apprentice Beekeeper (\$5.00 Fee for materials)**

Requirements:

- 1) Any OSBA member who completes a beginning beekeeping course offered by a local beekeeping organization in Ohio or
- 2) Any member who has not attended a local bee school but has belonged to a local bee club for two years

And takes part in an official practical field exercise to be conducted by a CERTIFIED OSBA MEMBER\* or by an OSBA member who has had at least three years of beekeeping experience and is willing to follow the guidelines set up by OSBA for the field exercise will be eligible to apply for a certification as an **OSBA Apprentice Beekeeper**.

The field exercise will expose the applicant to practical hive inspections by a certified OSBA Beekeeper. The applicant must be able to identify the following successfully. (Pollen in cells, honey in cells, the three classes of bees in the hive, worker cells and drone cells and queen cells/cups if present, type of foundation used in frames, the various frame and hive sizes, starting and maintaining the smoker as the hive is inspected, and answer questions related to the hive asked by the certified beekeeper)

Any member of OSBA who can show proof of three years or more of beekeeping experience and can show proof as registering their hives with the state of Ohio can waive the Apprentice requirement to apply for the Journeyman Level.

### **OSBA Journeyman Beekeeper (\$20.00 fee for materials and administration)**

Requirements:

- 1) Must be an **Apprentice Beekeeper** or
- 2) Has that requirement waived by OSBA with proof of beekeeping experience can apply to OSBA to become involved in the Journeyman level.

Once enrolled in the program a candidate must complete the following within a five year period.

- 1) Proof of registration with the Ohio Department of Agriculture of keeping honey bees for each year they are enrolled in this phase of the project. Ideally, a candidate will also be able to provide yard inspection reports for these years as well.
- 2) (**Fees will be charged for the workshops and seminars.**) Candidates will be required to attend OSBA sponsored workshops or seminars covering the following areas of study and show proof of a total of 40 hours of instruction from the following which must include at least 24 hours from items (a) thru (k):
  - a. Disease, Pest and Predators including control methods
  - b. Honey Bee biology
  - c. Producing Products of the Hive
  - d. Native Pollinators & Pollination
  - e. Bee Hive Management
  - f. Pollen and Honey Plants
  - g. Ethics (Honey standards, use of chemicals Registration of honey bees, Ohio Laws)
  - h. Commercial and noncommercial queen production
  - i. Apitherapy and related topics
  - j. IPM – late summer requeening - splits –
  - k. Others that may be approved by the Master Committee

### **Elective hours to meet the 40 hour requirement can include:**

- 1) Attending workshops such as the Wooster Tri-County Meeting or the Southwest Ohio Workshop (Counting only the hours of actual class room instruction) which are endorsed by OSBA. The candidate must show proof of attendance in each class claimed toward this requirement. Keynote speeches will not count toward required hours.
- 2) Attending seminars/workshops conducted by OSBA other than the organized workshops designed specifically for this program. Example: Summer and Fall OSBA meetings.
- 3) A candidate will prepare a lesson plan for a beekeeping topic and present a talk based on the lesson plan to a local beekeeping association

meeting, or beginning beekeeping classes and provide either a power point presentation or a written satisfactory evaluation by a club representative and sent to the OSBA Master Beekeeper Chairperson. This presentation must be at least 30 minutes in duration.

4) The Candidate will complete at least 5 credits of documented public service work. See OSBA website for options.

5) The candidate will submit a request for program completion after requirements for the Journeyman are completed. The candidate will provide proof of all requirements on the Journeyman completion form. Any form submitted to the Master Beekeepers Committee by a candidate less than 30 days prior to the fall OSBA meeting will not be considered for recognition at the fall meeting.

\*During the 1990's OSU/OSBA joined with a program, "Certified Ohio Beekeepers". Those individuals "Certified Ohio Beekeepers" that completed all six areas of training and can provide the Patch showing completion of the program will be credited with 24 hours toward completion of the Journeyman level. This program was a joint OSU/OSBA effort to improve beekeeping technique and skill levels in the 1990's.

OSBA will recognize those individuals that are recognized as **EAS Master Beekeepers** and/or individuals who have earned a PhD in a field related to beekeeping and living in Ohio as **OSBA Master Beekeepers**.

See Our Website at

[www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org)

