Tri-County Beekeepers Association, Inc. is hosting its 37th Annual Spring Beekeeping Workshop on March 6-7 at the OARDC in Wooster. There will be educational classes geared for beginners and experienced beekeepers. There will also be workshops throughout the day for children, as well as a hands-on room.

Registration Fees:
- $40 for TCBA Members
- $45 for non-members
- $5 for Youths under 17
- $5 for those 6-12 taking the Kids' Class
- $12 for Turkey Hot Lunch
- $8.50 for Boxed Lunch

Friday evening:
Special Class Sessions from 7:00—8:00 p.m., followed by refreshments:
- Beekeeping Adventures Through the Years — Dr. Larry Connor
- Getting Started in Beekeeping — John George

Saturday:
Key Note Speaker: Dr. Larry Connor
Topic: The Sustainable Apiary

Workshop Topics Include:
- Beginner Beekeeping
- Fair Preparation
- Beekeeping Payback
- Adventures In Reclamation
- A Beekeeping Career In Science
- Queen And Drone Biology
- Kids’ Classes
- Transitioning From Hobby To Career
- Planting With Pollinators In Mind
- Cooking With Honey
- Mechanics Of Queen Rearing
- Pollen What’s In It
- Nuc Production For Sustainable Beekeeping

Reminder: There will be no walk-in registration

Cooking With Honey Competition with prizes totaling $800 to be awarded.

For more information:
educationcommittee@tricountybeekeepers.org
## 2015 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION
### OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

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### Staff Appointments:
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### 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.
- Members can receive a discount on American Bee Journal Magazine.
- Provide educational meeting once a year (Fall Conference).
- 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.
We Did It!!
The Save The Honey Bee License Plate Receives Governor’s Signature

Beekeepers across Ohio received a wonderful gift for the holiday season…..a gift that will continue to help support beekeeping for years to come. The Save the Honey Bee Plate was signed into law! The plate should be available by the 2nd quarter of 2015. We will have all the details on our website and in our newsletter on how to get your plate.

On December 9th, OSBA officials were asked to testify in front of the Senate Transportation Committee. OSBA Vice-President Terry Lieberman-Smith and OSBA Director Alex Zomchek, along with supporters Paul Lane and his daughter Piper, Marie Crawford, and Louise Adkins arrived in Columbus to support HB 474. The Transportation Committee approved the bill and sent it to the Senate. In the Senate, it was amended (other non-controversial, non-related items were added), and HB 474 was kicked back to the House for re-approval. On the last day before the end of the session, HB 474 was approved and headed to Governor Kasich’s desk for final approval….where it was signed with little delay.

Thanks to Mike Dovilla (Berea) and Dorothy Pelanda (Marysville), the Joint Sponsors of our license plate, and the tireless follow-up by beekeeper Paul Lane, Ohioans can sport the Save The Honey Bee Plate on their cars starting in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

This license plate will bring more public awareness about the plight of the honey bee and raise additional funds that OSBA can use to support education and beekeeping research.

We will have information about how to order your own Save The Honey Bee License plate on our website within the next few weeks.

A special thanks to Paul Lane who guided this project from its inception.
Thank you for your vision and dedication.

Gifts for a Lifetime of Learning

Make sure to keep the beekeeping buzzing along year round with these great gift ideas that you can purchase on-line or at the OSBA Booths at conferences - save $$ on shipping and handling:

✓ Membership (or renewal) to OSBA
✓ Beekeeping Training DVD set
✓ OSBA Logowear

And remember: Gift certificates from our vendors are appropriate year-round!
Honey Questions– Answered

At a recent OSBA honey show there were many good entries and a few people stopped by expressing an interest in showing honey but said they knew nothing about showing honey. Thus I thought that an article was needed to answer their questions.

Honey can be clear as a glass of water or be as dark as tar. It all depends upon what plants the bees visited to collect the nectar. However, just knowing which plant supplied the nectar isn’t the only factor in determining the color, as minerals in the soil, the different cultivars, the combination of floral sources, and weather conditions also play a role. Most honeys darken with age, so the honey that you store year to year may not be the same color next year. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has divided the color range of honey into seven color groups which are: water white, extra white, white, extra light amber, light amber, amber, and dark amber. The break points between these classes were measured by a machine called the Pfund color grader and the difference between the groups is noted in millimeters of thickness. Thus these break points are: 8, 17, 34, 48, 83, and 114 millimeters. Different devices have been developed to measure the colors in millimeters or distinguish the color of the honey. Most shows will stipulate the color or color range that entries should be placed. Some shows require the entrant to put their entries into the proper class while other shows will permit the judge or fair officials to move the entry to the proper color class. If the entry can be moved into the proper class, you would need only one set of jars, however if the rules state that the entries cannot be moved, you will need a set of jars for each class in case you don’t know the color of your honey. Then you will earn the points where the honey is in the right class, but loose the color points where it is out of the color class. If you are out of the color class and there are very few entries, there is a possibility that you may place anyway. In many shows you must have the proper entry tag for that class, so upon registry you should sign up for all classes. Then you will have the correct tag to attach on entry day.

Identifying the source of a honey is a very difficult chore and is not necessary in most shows. In order to have honey of a single source, the hive would have to be placed in the middle of a field that has at least two miles of that desired plant in every direction. Because that is very unlikely, the next best way to identify the honey source is to run the honey through a centrifuge to separate out the pollen grains and then compare the pollen grains to those of the various known plants. Again that is very unlikely, so the next method is to taste the honey and try to determine what the honey’s major source is. This is the most common way that honey is identified and you can see that in most cases the type will depend upon the predominate source. Sometimes there are unscrupulous individuals that will label their honey to compete with the local market favorites and that same honey is relabeled depending where they are trying to sell it. Another unscrupulous trick is to label the honey incorrectly hoping to sneak it by the consumer, with labels as Black Locust for a dark colored honey. (Black Locust happens to be a very light colored honey.) A general rule is that honey that is produced in the spring is light and the darker honeys are produced in the fall.

When the bees collect the nectar from the plants, they put the nectar in their honey stomachs and bring it back to the hive to share and communicate where it came from so others can bring in more of the same. They will then deposit the rest into cells by passing the nectar through hypopharyngeal glands which adds invertase to the nectar. This causes the nectar to turn into high moisture honey. The bees will deposit this nectar into the cells and fan air through the hive in order to remove moisture from the nectar and ripen it into honey. When it reaches 18% moisture, the bees will cap the cells. When the bees are collecting nectar, they will store it all together as long as the plants are producing that variety of nectar. However when that source quits, the bees will place nectar from the next blooming plant adjacent to it. You can see the
different honey sources when you hold a frame up to the light. Therefore if you want to try to have different colors of honey, you will have to sort out the frames and extract the lighter colored frames first and clean up the equipment before extracting the next color of frames. Any frames with dark colored cells will cause the light colored honey within the frame to be darker. The common practice of naming the honey that came from different cells is called wild flower honey or spring, summer, or fall honey. If you have a customer that prefers wild flower honey over other varieties, be sure to explain that all wild flower honey will vary in color and flavor each year or from location to location.

If the weather is very dry, the plants may not produce nectar. When it rains, the blossoms are washed clear of nectar so it may take a day or so before the plants start producing nectar again. The temperature also affects the time when bees venture out of the hive. So bees are very good at telling when it is the proper time to collect nectar. Certain plants produce nectar only certain times of the day, some plants produce a higher sugar content in their blossoms, and some blossoms have parts that antagonize bees. The difference in sugar content of the blossoms also explains why bees are attracted to certain blossoms. So bees are very selective in where they gather the nectar. If there is a weak hive nearby, the stored honey is much more attractive to the bees than getting it from plants. A good time for the beekeeper to work the hive is when the bees are flying.

Since the bees are capping the cells of honey when it reaches 18% moisture, you may want to remove the frames when they are close to being fully capped rather than what most books tell you 80%. The optimum percentage of moisture is 16.0%, so you may want to try to remove some of the moisture from the honey before it is uncapped. Several beekeepers have built hot rooms or devices to allow warm dry air to be passed through the supers. For the first 24 hours you can usually decrease the moisture by 1%. If you uncap the honey and then try to remove the moisture, you will find that you are not going to be successful as honey is hygroscopic and will absorb moisture faster than a dehumidifier can remove moisture from the air. If you try to heat the honey, you may find yourself scorching or burning it. At large honey shows, honey that has a lower than 16% moisture, can be disqualified or lose points. Honey with moisture of 18.6% or higher runs the risk of fermentation and earning no points.

For a honey show, you are striving to have honey that contains no natural or foreign particles. The judge usually uses a machine called a polariscope which allows the judge to see: air bubbles, pollen, wax particles, granulation, lint, and other debris. If you have customers that like pollen in their honey, you might have a line that doesn’t use as fine of filter. Most of the newer books recommend that you use a nylon filter, as cheese cloth may leave lint in your honey.

There can be many different kinds of sugars in honey, but the two primary ones, using my old nomenclature are dextrose and levulose. The newer terminology is glucose and fructose. When the ratios of these two sugars are close together the honey tends to granulate faster than if they are farther apart ratio wise. The nectar from different plants has different sugar contents. Some honeys like canola and goldenrod granulate rather quickly and others like California Sage and Tupelo take years to granulate. Honey that was found in the pyramids in clay pots was still liquid when the pots were opened. Generally when honey is allowed to granulate on its own, the crystals are large and hard. When honey is in a container the dextrose gravitates to the bottom and the levulose rises to the top. At this time the dextrose gives up moisture to the levulose and if the honey had high moisture to start with you could have a situation where fermentation begins due to the high moisture and the yeasts. Generally the granulation crystals will start at the bottom of the container and sometimes you may even see a separation of colors of the honey sources.

When you fill the jars, the proper level for the honey is to the middle of the neck ring. The middle is specified to allow for honey expanding due to the heat or contracting because it is cold, the level should still be within the limits of the neck ring. The neck ring is the manufacturers unit of measure for that jar. If the honey level is below the neck ring, the customer is being cheated. You can tell if the moisture of your honey is within the correct limits if you weigh the empty jar and then fill the jar to the middle of the neck ring. If you have the specified weight of the...
OSBA Partners with PSC and MCBA for Pollinator Grants

The Ohio EPA, through their Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF), awarded the “Beekeepers Collaborating to Create Pollinator Habitats” grant to Medina County Beekeepers and OSBA. Michele Colopy, Program Director of Pollinator Stewardship Council wrote the grant to support an idea developed in collaboration with Peggy Games, MCBA President, and Terry Lieberman-Smith, OSBA Vice-President. “The national initiatives developed by the Honey Bee Health Coalition, the Presidential Memorandum for pollinator health, and the USDA inspired this project.” stated Michele Colopy, Program Director.

This grant builds the partnerships that will develop pollinator habitat on corporate land. Prior to applying for the grant, MCBA and OSBA had to secure land partners for the habitat development. A newspaper article in the Beacon Journal and association contacts proved invaluable in spreading the word to potential partners. Two corporate partners have employees who are also beekeepers.

The combined total of 34 acres brings diversity of land types and location; from parcel sizes less than 1 acre in a private medical practice to almost 30 acres of open land. Our corporate land partners (CEMEX, Inc., the Department of Veterans Affairs in Dayton, and Professional Services Providers of Wadsworth, LLC) committed to creating and maintaining the habitat for a minimum of five years. The grant will educate corporations, their staff, and customers about the need for pollinator habitat, connect local beekeeping groups with the corporations, enhance collaborations, and inspire land use changes in support of pollinator habitat. “While this grant is closed, there are other opportunities for landowners and farmers to plant pollinator forage through many CRP programs available through the Federal government”, states Lieberman-Smith.

“The “Beekeepers Collaborating to Create Pollinator Habitats” project will provide diverse, nutritional forage for honey bees and other pollinators, support a healthy pollinator population, support microenterprise local honey production, educate corporate employees and customers about the value of managed and native pollinators, and encourage businesses to fulfill their own environmental stewardship ethic. This collaborative effort is integral to a vital, sustainable, and affordable food supply for humans and pollinators.

The land, still owned by the landowner, will be transformed into pollinator habitat. The land partners have the option to contract with local beekeepers to place bee hives on the property. OSBA can facilitate contracts between the beekeeper and the landowner to ensure the safety and success of the bee hives on the private land. “OSBA is pleased to be a partner in this project”, says Lieberman-Smith. “By partnering with Pollinator Stewardship Council, Medina County Beekeepers Association, and OEEF, we are able to support not only local associations, 4-H students, and honey bees, but also encourage local landowners to support beekeeping by planting forage that will provide more diverse nutrition to our honey bees.”

(Continued on page 26)
We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the study of the potential of soybeans as a honey plant at the OSBA Fall Conference on November 1 in Plain City! We received over 90 honey samples, of which 81 were processed and made into microscopic slides on site at the conference. We did not find any pollen on 16 slides, which might be a result of artifacts during pollen extraction. Out of the 65 slides that had pollen, 30 contained at least one grain of soybean pollen. In other words, approximately 46% of the honey samples we examined contained nectar of soybeans. In most of the samples that had soybean nectar, only a few grains of soybean pollen were found among pollen from a variety of other plants. This suggests either that soybeans are a widely visited, but minor nectar source, or that soybeans are a dominant nectar source but relatively little soybean pollen finds its way into soybean honey.

These results are only preliminary, however. In order to process a large number of samples quickly at the conference, we simplified the pollen-extracting procedures. Oftentimes the simplified method did not yield enough pollen grains for estimating the proportion of honey that originated from soybeans. Therefore, we will re-extract pollen from some of the samples to produce slides of better quality. Then, we will quantify the abundance of soybean pollen in each sample and analyze it to see if there is any correlation between soybean honey and the area of soybean fields near the apiaries. Please stay tuned for more updates about this study!

If you are interested in participating in this study but did not bring honey samples to the OSBA Fall Conference, please contact Chia Lin (Lin.724@osu.edu) for instructions for how to send your samples to us. We will also be analyzing the first 30 summer honey samples we receive at the Tri-County Beekeepers Workshop in Wooster on March 7, 2015 (we just need an ounce of honey that the bees may have collected during the summer -- a squirt from a honey bear is perfect). Thanks again!
OSBA Info Booth— On the Move

OSBA was invited to have an informational booth at the Montgomery County Food Summit on December 2nd. Your OSBA Vice President staffed the booth and answered many questions from the attendees. Attendees who visited the booth learned about the importance of honey bees, reduced use of pesticides, and increased need for pollinator forage.

Guest speakers at the event included growers, farmer’s market management, OSU extension staff, and the Public Health Commissioner for Dayton and Montgomery County.

The exhibit area contained displays from OSBA, Master Gardeners, University of Dayton Food Service (showing their recycling and food-to-compost methods), BWCA (wetlands association), and other food sustainability groups.

Remember to Register.....

For those of you who entered beekeeping late in 2015, it is important for you to register your bees with both the state, and with the Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry.

If you previously registered your hives with Ohio Department of Agriculture, they will mail the 2015 registration form to you. If you did not register your hives in 2014, here is the link to the form: www.agri.ohio.gov/public_docs/forms/Plant/2013%20Apiary%20Application%20.pdf

From their website (www.agri.ohio.gov/scr/): The Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry (OSCR) is a voluntary informational tool designed to allow stakeholders an effective way to communicate and protect pesticide-sensitive crops and apiaries. This website contains information about apiaries, aquaculture, certified organic fields, and other “crops” that are sensitive to pesticide spraying. Remember to update your information as you change apiary locations.

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Ohio raised with our drone stock from A.I. queens

Email orders only: stahlmanapiaries@aol.com

Price is $35.00 per queen

Our web site: www.gobeekeeping.com
Beekeeper of the Year—Alex Zomchek

This year’s award went to Alex Zomchek, OSBA Director, Miami Valley. He was selected to win this award due to his outreach on the local and national level through public events, demonstrations, lectures, research projects and other media have helped to educate beekeepers and the general public.

Alex’s has an enthusiasm and commitment to bees and beekeepers, and tirelessly works to promote honey bee sustainability. This year alone he testified in front of the House and Senate to promote the Save the Honey Bee license plate, led the effort to have Butler County Beekeepers to host the OSBA Summer Conference, and was the OSBA-Sponsored 4-H Judge at the Ohio State Fair.

Congratulations goes out to Alex on being selected as the 2014 OSBA Beekeeper of the Year.

Overwintered Ohio Nucs
5-frame deep nucs in cardboard box
Now taking orders
Contact: John George
614.376.3040
johngeorge706@gmail.com

New OSBA Life Members
The following beekeeper has shown his support of OSBA by becoming Life Member. Life Membership consists of a one-time payment to OSBA of $200.

Mike and Sally Blessing
Brian Sirmans / Lindsey Hildebrant
Beekeeping Classes Abound—Find One Near You!

**Athens County Beekeepers**
Athens County Beginner Class will be held in March. For more details visit: athensbeekeepers.org

**Central Ohio Beekeepers**
Beginner Class on Tuesdays Feb 17, 24, March 3, 10 at 6:30 p.m. or Wednesdays Feb 18, 25, March 4, 11 at 6:30 p.m. for $64 per person. An all day Beekeeping Class will be held on March 14 from 8:30-4:30 p.m. for $75. All classes are held at Waterman Farms, Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH. For registration details: www.centralohiobeekeepers.org

**Coshocton County Beekeepers**
CCBA’s Beginner Beekeeping Class is on Saturday February 21st from 9-4 p.m. Registration includes classroom sessions, a book, light lunch, a 1 year membership to Coshocton County Beekeepers, and a hands-on field day at Coshocton County Beeyard in the Spring. Registration is $50 per person ($25 for each additional person from the same household). For more information contact Dick Mullet at dmullet@bright.net.

**East Central Ohio Beekeepers**
ECOBA one-day bee schools run from 9-5 p.m. Jan 31, Feb 7 and Feb 14. An ECOBA membership, workbook, and handout materials are included in the $75.00 fee. For more info, contact: info@ecoba.org

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association**
This 4 session class starts February 4 at the Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmstead from 7-9 p.m. Cost is $50 and includes membership to GCBA for 1 year. For more information: www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com/

**Greene County Beekeepers**
This course which covers everything from apiary location to seasonal management. Thursdays, Jan 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5 from 7-8:30 p.m. $40 for Greene County Residents, $50 for non-residents. Students can participate in a bulk equipment order, and will receive 1 year membership to GCBA. www.gcbeekeepers.com

**Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers**
Learn about the basics of beekeeping, pollination and honey collection. You will learn what equipment is needed, how to handle honey bees, problems for our bee population and resources from our local bee club to assist you in getting started. Three sessions, with class choices of either Tuesday or Saturday, starting Feb 3 or Feb 7th. Cost of $35 includes book, membership to Guernsey Noble and other incidentals. Contact Don Crock for more information at: doncrock@yahoo.com or www.guernseynoblebeekeepers.com

**Knox County Beekeepers**
See website for details: http://www.knoxbees.com/

**Lorain County Beekeepers**
LCBA’s Beginner Class includes class instruction on the first four Fridays of March. For more details visit their website: www.loraincountybeekeepers.org/

**Maumee Valley Beekeepers**
The Maumee Valley Beekeepers will be holding a 2 part beginning beekeepers class on Jan 21 and Feb 17 starting at 7:00 pm held at the 577 Foundation in Perrysburg OH. The cost is $10.00 per person. To register for the classes go to www.577foundation.org.

**Medina County Beekeepers**
Instructors: Kim Flottum and Peggy Garnes will have two classes: Monday evenings or Saturdays. Students can attend either or both of these sessions once fees are collected.

Cost: $75.00 per person or family. Fees includes MCBA membership for one year, 1 book, and 18 hours of instruction. There will be outside demonstrations, as weather permits. Pre-reservation is required. To reserve your slot contact Paul Kosmos pkosmos@frontier.com or www.medinabeekeepers.com.

**Monday Evenings** – 7-9:30 pm
Feb 23, March 2, 9, 23, 30 and April 6

**Saturday Sessions** – 9 - 3:30 pm
Feb 14, 21, and 28

**Miami Valley Beekeepers**
This two session class is on February 7 and 14 and runs from 9-4 p.m. at Bruknner Nature Center in Troy, OH. Registration is $55. Contact Bruknner Nature Center to register: www.bruknnernaturecenter.com/

**Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association**
The Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association will hold a Beginning Beekeepers Workshop from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday, February 21st, 2015, at the Allen County Extension Office, 3900 Campus Drive, Suite B, Lima, (Continued on page 11)
Ohio. Registration is from 8:30 am to 9:00 am.

The workshop is designed for people who would like to get started in beekeeping, or those who have had previous beekeeping experience and want to get back into beekeeping. Some of the topics will include basic honeybee biology, races of bees, how to start a hive, equipment, and keeping bees in a residential setting. The workshop will include a break for lunch at noon, but there will be no lunch furnished. So bring your lunch or visit one of the many nearby restaurants.

The cost is $30 and includes membership to The Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association and a book. To register, call Dwight Wilson at 419-722-1953 or Tim Arheit at (720) 476-0030, or email Tim at tarheit@honeyrunapiaries.com.

**Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers**

Dates are yet to be set, however they are usually held for two Saturdays at the end of March and the first week of April. Classes are held at 4865 CR 175, Clyde, OH. For more information call: 419.603.1749 or see their website: www.srvbeekeeping.com.

**Scioto Valley Beekeepers**

SVBA 3-evening Beginning Beekeeping Course will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 15 and 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Circleville. Participants will learn everything needed to start a hive and care for it during the first year. The $50 classroom fee includes the workbook, instructional materials and a one-year membership in SVBA. Participants also will have the opportunity to receive instruction in an active beeyard. Class size is limited. The class fills up quickly so please register early. Questions? Contact beekeeping@frontier.com.

**Summit County**

Class is held on 5 consecutive Wednesdays (Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, and 11) from 7pm-9pm at Quirk Cultural Center in Cuyahoga Falls. Class will cover all aspects from equipment needed to honey extraction. Classes will be a mixture of speakers and a hands-on interactive lessons. Topics include why and how to get started, the costs and time involved, and basic management of a hobby apiary.

Class fee: $52 (individual) or $75 family (2 people max) (payable upon registration). Includes the class, a beginner’s beekeeping book, and a 1 year membership in the Summit Co. Beekeepers Assoc. Those who attend will receive a raffle ticket for a drawing of a $75 gift certificate to help you begin beekeeping. www.summitbeekeepers.com

**West Central Ohio Beekeepers**

West COBA will be holding a one day class on February 21 for $50. For more information contact the Clark County Extension Office at: 937.328.4607.

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**Make Your Own Yard More Pollinator Friendly— On a Budget**

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Each Spring most County Soil and Water Conservation Departments participate in tree sales. They offer a variety of conifers, shrubs, and deciduous trees for a great price. These “whips” vary in age from 1-3 years of age and 8-28 inches in height. Greene County, where I live, already has the 2015 order form on their website! Not only are many of these trees and shrubs pollinator friendly, but many would also provide double-duty as future windbreaks for my apiary.

Selections includes: American Arborvitae, Chokecherry (not to be used near cattle or sheep), Red Osier Dogwood, American Cranberry, Sugar Maple and Tulip Poplar. If you have a hard time making up your mind, they offer different variety packs that will meet your needs.

I usually check out the offerings of surrounding counties, in order to get the best blend for my yard. Last year, to replace the ash trees, we planted over 30 “whips” in the woods. This year we will continue adding more varieties to ensure that our bees and other pollinators with have a wide variety of pollen.

Most Soil and Water District sales end by the beginning of March, so don’t delay on checking out their order forms.
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.
Ohio Apiary Inspection for 2014

The inspection reports have been counted and calculated into the final Apiary Inspection Summary. This summary shows the number of apiaries for each county that has a County Apiary Inspector along with the number of apiaries and colonies inspected (AP. INSP; COL. INSP). The "Disease Diagnosed" categories list the total number of colonies that were found to have any of the key pests or diseases including: American Foulbrood (AFB), European foulbrood (EFB), Chalkbrood (CB), Nosema symptoms (Nos-fecal spatters), varroa mites and small hive beetles (SHB).

The number of apiaries inspected can vary markedly from the total number of apiaries depending upon several factors. County Inspectors are appointed and paid by the county which appointed them. Some counties lack the resources to cover mileage to travel over the entire county or cannot cover a second trip if the inspector can’t finish all the inspections at one time. If a beekeeper wants to be present at a later date or the Inspector cannot access the area where the hives are located, he/she may not be able to drive back to that township another time. Colonies for which the beekeepers filed a “No Consent” will deduct from the number inspected also. Unfortunately the level and magnitude of serious disease is unknown in areas where beekeepers file a “No Consent”.

Another point is the number of diseases and pests found per county. Several reasons account for this data. AFB, varroa mites and small hive beetles will ‘travel’ to other apiaries in close proximity, so in townships or localities where these problems are found, the numbers will be elevated. Also if colonies are inspected in the spring, the presence of AFB and number of mites may be lower because fewer colonies are existent.

The percentage of pests and diseases found on the bottom of the last page are based on the number of colonies inspected. The number of colonies with varroa mites or small hive beetle has steadily increased. Levels of Nosema symptoms (samples were confirmed at the Beltsville Bee Lab) were high in the spring and early summer but dwindled as the season progressed. EFB was prevalent in parts of West Central and Eastern Ohio while the incidence of AFB has gradually decreased thanks to alert Inspectors detecting the disease and beekeepers cooperating when the deadly disease was discovered.

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a County Apiary Inspector, please contact Barbara Bloetscher at 614-728-6373 or email: Bbloetscher@agri.ohio.gov.

See tables on the following pages for detailed information.
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percent AFB 0.23%  
percent EFB 0.07%  
percent CB 0.25%  
percent Nosema 1.17%  
percent Varroa 31.25%  
percent SHB 8.15%  

Apiary: means any place where one or more colonies are kept  
Colony: means the hive, bees (dead or alive), combs and brood  
AFB: American Foulbrood, Paenibacillus larvae  
EFB: European Foulbrood, Melissosoccus pluton  
CB: Chalkbrood, Ascosphaera apis  
NOS: Nosema  
VM: Varroa Mite, Varroa destructor = V. jacobsoni  
SHB: Small Hive Beetle, Aethina tumida  
Bee Diseases: means any infectious or contagious disease that is pathogenic or parasitic and affects the eggs, larval, pupal or adult stages of the bees
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Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Closed Sundays)

(Nov. 1 - Feb. 28)
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Closed Sundays)
Comb Management

“Too soon old, too late smart.” There, I have admitted it in print and not as a flip cliché. So much truth in so many areas of life was never spoken. It goes well with “Never too old to learn something new,” and nothing is more true than in beekeeping. No matter how well informed a beekeeper is, he never knows it all even if he fancies himself as a master beekeeper or is so recognized by his peers. Beekeeping is always in a state of change, new pests, new diseases, new methods, and new challenges to ones beekeeping sanity.

The above comments are in relation to my long time in coming to conclusion that brood combs need replaced on a continuing basis. I’ve read about it. I’ve taught about it. Now I am embracing it as a necessity to maintain healthy hives of bees.

Old black brood combs have got to be replaced...regularly. Why? Contamination...from environmental pollutants generally, from beekeeping medications, from harboring viruses and pathogens, etc. All those are compromising the immune system of the bees, exposing them to things which reduces their resistance and shortens their life expectancy.

Because well drawn combs are a valuable resource I have always protected them and used them year after year. That has been normal in beekeeping and was viewed as the duty of a good and responsible beekeeper. Enter chemical contaminants and change has become necessary. With winter to prepare the equipment necessary to replace old combs, now is the time to begin preparing for next spring hive management.

Many of the current contaminants are relatively recent problems not creating a problem a couple decades ago. Back in the 1970s when I was the Greene County Apiary inspector, before tracheal and varroa mites and small hive beetles, an older beekeeper was vocal about getting rid of old black brood combs that were 5 years old. I thought the old geezer had lost his marbles and gladly took his “old” combs for my own use. Why waste such a valuable resource and create additional expense for oneself that wasn’t warranted? At that time that was a valid assessment since chemical contamination wasn’t then a problem. Now I am wondering what the old guy knew way back then that is becoming a well documented necessity today.

The arrival of varroa mites has been the tipping point to my conclusions. One of the ways to reduce varroa naturally is to create a break in the bee brood cycle. Since the mites feed on 5 day old bee larvae and reproduce in the cell of that larvae, an absence of that age larvae is the key to a system of ridding the hive of varroa naturally. When I marry that concept with producing nucs in the spring during the honey flow I can accomplish both objectives, new combs and varroa reduction, at the same time. A couple frames of sealed brood and bees pulled from a hive along with the queen and put into a nuc creates a space for two new frames and foundation which the bees will quickly draw into new combs during the honey flow. The mother hive will raise a new queen creating a break in the brood cycle. When the first 5 day old larvae are available from the new queen the mites rush into those available cells en masse, and with too many mites for the available food they die of starvation and the bees routinely remove the carnage ridding the hive of varroa population. The nuc with the mother queen will continue to build up during the honey flow and new frames containing foundation can be added as needed. Later the nuc may need to be fed but it can be strengthened and wintered over.

Immediately someone will say removing the queen from the strong hive is crazy. My response is that the best time to raise queens is in the spring when the honey flow is on. If you don’t have the bee population necessary to produce a honey crop when the honey flow begins you don’t need increased population at all so removing the queen at that time is NOT counter productive. It provides the best conditions for raising a queen, it creates a break in the bee brood cycle which reduces mite population, and it can also help curb swarming. In the event a queen is not produced, you always have the original queen available to remedy the queenlessness.
I was asked to write an OSBA article about why and how this new bee club got started. In 2014, I took a 7 month apprenticeship beekeeping program at Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware with 23 other students. Immediately I discovered a passion while attending to the bees, was intrigued as to how the colony works, and wanted to help increase the healthy bee population in Ohio. I now spend much time on the internet researching bees, reading books, visiting other apiaries, and talking to experienced beekeepers.

I have learned many farms practice monoculture which is growing a single crop for many consecutive years. This can spread pests and diseases faster. All the pesticides, neonicotinoids, and GMO issues already endanger honeybees and present challenges for the rural beekeeper in maintaining healthy hives. With the expansion of urban areas and downsize of farm lands or rural areas, it seems there is a greater need for more urban beekeepers. I live in Columbus where there are many other bee considerations, issues, and topics not being discussed that I want to learn.

Speaking with beekeepers at events, a number of people agree an urban beekeeping club is an excellent idea. Several participated on the planning committee to start the club. The group met in October to form Urban Beekeepers of Central Ohio (UBCO) and developed this mission statement:

*Urban Beekeepers of Central Ohio is an educational and social club whose purpose is:

To promote the practice of sustainable beekeeping;

To connect and build a community of beekeepers;

To address the specific challenges facing urban beekeepers;

To reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals to maintain healthy hives; and

To educate beekeepers and the public about the importance of honeybees and pollination.*

My instructor, Dave Noble, Stratford Apiarist, was our inaugural guest speaker in November. His topic was about ‘Diet Dependent Gene Expressions in Honeybees’. He explained how and why sugar substitutes are harmful to bees and emphasized the importance of feeding bees only honey and pollen. Audience surveys suggested dozens more areas of interest for UBCO to pursue such as Ohio Code relating to apiaries, backyard beekeeping, personal insurance issues, pesticide load, and chemicals inside the hive-the long term effects of short term solutions.

UBCO’s next general meeting will be January 8th from 7-8:30 pm at St Andrew Presbyterian Church located at 1450 E Dublin-Granville Road (Rt 161 just off Interstate 71) Columbus 43229. Jeannie Saum and Laurie Dotson from BEEpotecary will present on propolis (collecting it, cleaning it, its uses, and health benefits) including a demonstration. Some other speakers confirmed for 2015 urban focused topics include: Denise Ellsworth on ‘Urban Gardens and the Best Plants for Honeybees from Early Spring to Late Fall’; Dr. James Tew on ‘Urban Beekeeping’; and Lani Basberg on ‘Urban Beekeeping Insurance’. Hands on activities are also being planned. The group will meet the 2nd Thursday evening of each month (except December) from 7-8:30pm.

Contact Cheryl for more info at: ubco2014@yahoo.com
Apimondia
U.S.A. 2019

Our Goal:
To provide a meeting point for everyone involved in the beekeeping world to come together for mutual beneficial discussions and education.

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Apimondia is the bi-annual congress of the International Federation of Beekeepers’ Associations.

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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

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.

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

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OSBA Educational Conferences
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Specific programming reaching into the comfort of your own home, on your own schedule.
Association Corner

From Alex Zomchek – Miami Valley Region:

The BCBA is looking to promote more group/cooperative projects this year. These to include a spring equipment build, experimenting with hive designs (8-frame hives, top bar hives), queen rearing, a honey extraction “party”, and mentoring. Additionally we will be group purchasing a new, portable honey extractor for members at large. We will build a state-of-the-art solar wax melter for club use. Additionally we are building several swarm catchers that came from a winning design submitted in the “Gadgets and Gizmos” contest at the OSBA Summer conference last year.

Greene County Beekeepers has already set the dates for the Spring Clinic and Honey Harvest….both popular educational opportunities for new beekeepers and the general public. Speakers, silent auction and hands-on workshops are in the planning stages.

From Mike Doseck—Top of Ohio:

Greater Grand Lakes Beekeepers: With the exception of August 2015, they will be meeting on the second Tuesday at the St. Mary’s Library. For more information, contact Mike Doseck at: 419.394.4215. www.facebook.com/GreaterGrandLakeBeekeepers

Miami Valley Beekeepers has already started setting up their 2015 beekeeping season with speakers, hands-on days in their apiary, and some special sessions. Outreach and mentoring continue to be an important aspect of this association.

From Jason Bosler—Crossroads Region:

The Coshocton County Beekeepers Association finished up a very good year with their meeting on November 18, 2014. The election of officers resulted in the incumbents being reelected for another term. President Doug Ritzert, VP Stephanie Hammond, Secretary Marcy Ritzert, and Treasurer Dick Mullet can all be contacted through our website www.coshoctonbeekeepers.com or at Coshocton County Beekeepers Association Facebook page.

During the meeting, the members reviewed the past year’s meetings and noted requests for topics and changes in the upcoming year. The club will continue the Saturday morning meetings in April, June, July and August visiting members’ apiaries to review their hives and the Tuesday evening meetings the other months. The club held the annual hive door prize drawing, giving away a complete hive that was built during the 2014 spring bee school. The meeting concluded with the first annual honey judging contest. The members had a fun time tasting and judging their favorite honey out of 15 club entries. They all agreed it should be an annual event for the club.

The Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers’ Association is preparing for the Saturday, January 31st 2015 Honey Bee Expo, on the campus of West Virginia University Parkersburg. This is an all day event with keynote speaker, and 4 breakout sessions. Cost is $20.00 if pre-registered by January 13th, or $25.00 at the door. Scheduled instructors are Dr. Joe Latshaw, and Dr. Walter (Steve) Sheppard, as well as other knowledgeable speakers. For a complete list of subjects, go to our web-site; www.movba.org where all information is available. Or you can call (304)375-4919. As always, vendors will be present. Hope to see you there.

Tuscarawas Beekeepers Association re-elected Ray Wirt as their President, and Dave Linden as their new VP.

From Dwight Wilson—Maumee Valley Region:

Looking back on 2014…it has been a good year for many of the beekeepers, as most got some honey. The cool summer did cut back on the honey flows. We were able to bring in some wonderful speakers at our meetings and had a great field day/ workshop with Mel Disselkoen where we learned OTS (queen rearing).

Looking ahead at 2015…we have another Beginners Beekeeping Class that will be held in Lima on February 21st. As with most clubs, we are always looking for good speakers to bring in, so if there is anyone out there who has an expertise in beekeeping that they would like to share with us, we would like them to come up and talk about that at one of our meetings. I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season and Christmas, and as a reminder….read a good bee book this winter!

From Tracy Alarcon—Western Reserve Region:

Summit County Beekeepers will host a Beginners Beekeeping Class.

Medina County Beekeepers will host a Beginners and a “Next Class” (Intermediate level). The Intermediate level class will be held on Saturday, March 14th, from 9– 5 pm. Contact Paul Kosmos pkosmos@frontier.com to register.

(Continued on page 23)
Association Corner (Continued from page 22)

From Andrea Littler—Buckeye Hills

The Athens County Area Beekeepers Association (ACABA) has great plans for the next several months:

1. January 15, 2015, at 7 pm, Guest Speaker, Michael DeVaughn, will discuss "The Role of a Bee Inspector." Mike is the Washington County Bee Inspector.
2. February 19, 2015, at 7 pm, Anne Bonner from Ohio Dept of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, present "Bees and Trees."
3. March, 2015, ACABA will host a Beginning Beekeeping Class. Date to come! Check the athensbeekeepers.org website.

From Tom Rathbun—Erie Basin

In early November the SRVB club held their annual election with no change for the 2015 up coming year. The club also filled over 250 six ounce Honey Bears to give to the areas Food Pantries for the upcoming holidays. Also for the 2015 year the club is looking to sponsor a 10-17 year old boy or girl from each county the club represents for the 2015 beekeeping class. Entrants will be asked to write an essay as to why they would like to become a beekeeper, and then a committee will then pick the winners from the group of entries. The club will be contacting area Boy and Girl Scouts along with 4H and other group organizations. The SRVB will also be having their annual Christmas party in December. They will not have a group meeting in January, but the officers will meet to plan the 2015 calendar of speakers and projects.

From Marishka Wile– Ohio Valley

Brown County Beekeepers Association wrapped up last year with sessions that were educational as well as practical. Highlights included manufacturing and repairing equipment, making and baiting swarm traps, plants for bees, making a bee vacuum and an introduction to top bar hives. They continue their outreach efforts by lecturing at public libraries and 4-H camps. They will be exploring a program called "Tomorrow’s Beekeepers" through the local 4-H clubs. The Brown County Beekeepers Association has also partnered with the Brown County Master Gardeners to be a part of their lecture series. This past week the club presented a program at the Southern State Community College in Mt. Orab, Ohio titled "Bees." Included was "An Introduction To Beekeeping," as well as, "What is Happening To the Bees and How we Can Help."

Brown County is helping the Licking River Beekeepers group in Morehead, Ky, promote a bee school program in Maysville Feb. 28th, 2015. There will be breakout sessions and a lot of bee vendors. For more information contact Vice President Kevin Hale at KHale@palmernet.com.

Brown County’s new year starts in Feb. There will be sessions for both new and experienced beekeepers from starting your first hive to the ins out outs of feeding.
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.

James Glenn Groves, 73, died Saturday, November 29, 2014 at his residence after battling a lengthy illness. He was born in Coshocton County. He was a life-long “No-Till” farmer, and retired as a certified HVAC technician from Cosby Heating & Cooling of Mt. Vernon. He was the past-president of the Coshocton Co. Beekeepers Association (2012-2013) providing strong leadership during the early years of the Coshocton club. He enjoyed woodworking, having built various pieces of furniture and hardware for many friends and relatives. Jim built all his own woodenware for his bees and enjoyed the challenge of making new ideas out of wood.

In addition to his wife of 50 years, Martha Groves; he is survived by three daughters, three grandchildren, two step grandchildren, two brothers, and three sisters.

Kenneth Lee Brumbaugh 69, of West Milton, passed away Friday, October 31, 2014. He is preceded in death by a grandchild Daniel. He will be missed and remembered by his loving wife Cindy Brumbaugh, sons and daughters-in-law, 9 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, and brothers and sisters-in-law.

Kenneth was a 1963 Newton High School graduate, served his country proudly in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Ohio State and Miami County Beekeeper Associations, loved woodworking and gardening.
Mentoring

Webster defines a mentor as a teacher, coach, or advisor. In its most basic form, I would define mentoring as the transfer of information. Beekeeping with all of its different aspects provides virtually unlimited mentoring opportunities. And without question, mentoring is the quickest, and arguably, the very best way to learn beekeeping.

So, why don't more beekeeping organizations have some type of mentoring program in place? Better yet, why aren't more individual beekeepers directly involved in mentoring?

From my personal observations formal mentoring programs face a multitude of obstacles. The biggest single problem or challenge is to find, and then match willing mentors with the appropriate student or apprentice. Personalities or schedules often conflict. Travel time and distance might be an issue for hands-on or in-the-bee yard get-togethers. If mentoring is being promoted at the association level, some form of liability insurance may be advisable. The list could go on and on. Successful mentoring programs face a lot of development and organizational challenges. The same applies to direct one-on-one mentoring situations. Personalities and schedules have to match; otherwise the mentoring experience will be short lived.

Often the best mentoring arrangements occur at random. Some unexpected event or circumstance creates the initial contact. Over time friendships are formed, and both the mentor and the student benefit. For example; early in my beekeeping career I came into contact with a very knowledgeable beekeeper who quickly noticed my keen interest, and I'm sure, my lack of specific knowledge outside of my little world. He kindly invited me to come help him move bees into pollination the following spring, via the Armstrong method. I eagerly accepted. That turned out to be one of the wisest beekeeping decisions I ever made. I spent two days, in two consecutive seasons, working my butt off. I paid my own expenses save for sleeping accommodations; (he had an extra bedroom). I'm sure he considered my help invaluable; apparently beekeeping labor was scarce, or unreliable at the time. From my perspective, I got the best of the deal by far. I had unlimited opportunity to pick his brain on anything beekeeping related. Best of all, I got to see how someone else kept bees and that was worth as much as the conversation. We became good friends, even though the vast majority of our direct contact occurred during those two moving episodes so many years ago. I would certainly consider him a mentor, an invaluable mentor, even though his primary interest was simply in acquiring adequate labor to move his bees.

Based on that experience and many others of lesser consequence, I've become a fan of what I refer to as incidental mentoring. Defined; incidental mentoring is the transfer of information via any means other than a formal, hands-on mentoring program. For example, a casual telephone conversation relating to beekeeping would certainly qualify, no matter who initiated the call. The same would hold true for an e-mail or possibly a tweet, although neither of those venues could remotely compare to a phone call. A casual conversation in the hallway at a local bee meeting would also qualify. Any contact where beekeeping instruction is exchanged is a form of incidental mentoring.

Most beekeepers, especially those with knowledge and experience, are more than willing to pass their wisdom along. They may not grab your arm and use a hammerlock to get your attention, but most will gladly oblige when asked. Another tidbit; if you happen across a group of old-timers conversing out in the hall, remain quiet and casually work your way into the group, then listen for all you’re worth. You might just get lucky and access more information in a few minutes than you could acquire in six months of casual conversation elsewhere. Just hope you can remember the details long enough to accommodate pen and paper. This is a time tested format. I’ve used it any number of times, and wouldn’t hesitate to use it again if the opportunity were to present itself.

Quality meetings such as those organized by OSBA are excellent mentoring forums. You have experienced, knowledgeable speakers sharing their knowledge and (Continued on page 26)
Mentoring (Continued from page 25)

wisdom with anyone willing to listen. Incidental mentoring at its best!! There are a number of other forums that offer the same opportunity, but it’s up to you to access that information.

Beware of wanna-be’s, those second or third year beekeepers willing to spread their inexperience to anyone willing to listen. I can’t tell you how to recognize them, but I’m told there are more than a few out there waiting to be heard. The same holds true for the internet, BEWARE! There is some very useful information available through internet web sites and You Tube videos. However, there is also an abundance of mis-information, and more than a little downright inaccurate information. The best course would be to run anything the least bit questionable by one or more experienced beekeepers. Beyond that, the old adage “If it seems too good to be true, it probably is” applies.

Have fun, and don’t be afraid to ask for suggestions or advice. There is an abundance of knowledgeable, experienced beekeepers that will be more than willing to answer your call.

Pollinator (Continued from page 6)

During the five year period, Citizen Scientists will survey the land twice a year, noting the diversity of insects, and other fauna on the properties. This data will be input into a public database. We can the monitor the landscape, and the increased diversity of life supported in this pollinator habitat.

The grant also includes funding for participating bee associations to provide scholarships to four 4-H students within the land partner areas. The 4-H students will be responsible for submitting articles to the corporate newsletters about honey bees and their beekeeping experience. The beekeeping partners will encourage other corporations, beekeepers, and the public to convert their grassy lawns into pollinator habitat through two dozen presentations about this project.

“This is not a beautification project, but an education and habitat project.” stated Garnes. The general public will be able to drive by the properties and see the floral oasis, where there was once a nutritional desert. “Local beekeepers need to communicate with their local businesses and inspire them to plant pollinator habitat instead of grassy lawns. Local solutions to local problems are the key to a better community.” stated Colopy. The Pollinator Stewardship Council, who wrote the grant, expects this project will serve as a pilot program adaptable in other states. If your organization is interested in a similar program, contact the Pollinator Stewardship Council directly at progdirector@pollinatorstewardship.org or 832-727-9492.
2014 was a landmark year for OSBA. In case your year zipped by too quickly, here are some of the highlights:

- License Plate
- Two record breaking conferences
- Expanded OSBA Pavilion
- Active Facebook page
- Podcast
- Support 4-H with a judge at the State Contest
- Logowear
- Pollinator Grants
- New Associations
- 501c3 Status
- New Beekeeper School outreach
- Updated the OSBA Constitution from the By-laws

But I must admit, that is all in the rear-view mirror and everyone is looking forward to the exciting OSBA programs for 2015.

We have expanded our 4-H support, and we will be offering 4 scholarships during 2015. For more information contact your Regional Director or Representative. This program will be a partnership with 4-H, local associations, 4-H beekeepers, and of course OSBA.

We are actively seeking grants, for pollinator habitat and other educational opportunities. Our partner in this new venture for OSBA is Michele Colopy with Pollinator Stewardship Council. Now that OSBA is a 501c3 organization, we can act as fiscal agent for our grants and grants that we partner with local associations. We are also eligible for more grants and other funding opportunities.

Our OSBA Fall Conference will not only have great speakers that will include Thomas Seeley (Honey Bee Democracy), but also an expanded Trade-Show section for our vendors to display new and unique beekeeping equipment.

Our first podcast (available on our website) has received enough hits and even comments posted to our website, that we will continue to interview those in the beekeeping industry and ask them to share their insights. It will be as if you had your own mentor available 24/7!

This year’s outreach to those enrolled in New Beekeeper Schools that are sponsored by local associations is outstanding. We’re calling it the OSBA Care Package Plus. Each student will receive some OSBA educational information, pocket notepad and pen, PLUS one year introductory membership to OSBA. We all know that beekeeping is not an inexpensive activity, and we want all new-bees to get off on the right track—education, fellowship and awareness of all that OSBA offers.

We’re already developing the marketing for the Save The Honey Bee license plate so that when it becomes available for purchase it will literally fly off the shelves. As mentioned in an earlier article, this plate will bring public awareness to the issue, and it will help OSBA provide funding for honey bee research and additional educational programs.

The OSBA website had over 195,000 visits this year, up 27% from 2013. That’s over 500 visits per day!

Board meetings are vital way to update board members, discuss issues facing Ohio beekeepers and vote on motions. Ohio is a large state and board members are busy people. To help reduce travel time and associated costs, we are moving into the modern age of tele-commuting. We have found that attendance has increased and meetings are more efficient.

Hold on to your bee veils…..OSBA will be leading the way into 2015.

May we suggest email delivery of your next newsletter? Newsletter printing and mailing costs continue to rise. The newsletter you are reading cost $1.70 to print and mail. Signing up for email delivery is cost efficient and you will receive your electronic version weeks before the printed copy arrives at your home. Plus, you will have a full color version with hyperlinks to our vendors.

Please email osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com to change your delivery to email.
Mindful Beekeeping

You know how once you are sensitized to see something; you suddenly see that something all around you?

I was invited to pen an article for OSBA’s first quarterly newsletter of 2015. We actually have to submit the articles mid-December. While trying to come up with something motivational and forward thinking; I found I was still nostalgically looking back over the 2014 bee season.

Additionally, family issues, holiday happenings and life events were conspiring. My article just wasn’t jelling. Then the following series of actual events got me thinking:

On 12/14/14 Anderson Cooper on 60 Minutes ran a segment entitled “Mindfulness”. Essentially this has to do with, “being purposeful, aware, present, and in the moment”. The jest was that the churn and burn pace of modern life coupled with technology distractions leaves many of us feeling lost and unfulfilled in the maelstrom of living.

I was intrigued. But I was not wholly convinced this was a new phenomenon. Here’s partially why:

My eldest daughter came home for a holiday visit wherein we watched one of her favorite movies: The 13th Warrior (1999). In it the main character Ahmed Ibn Fahdlan played by Antonio Banderas recites, “Merciful Father, I have squandered my days with plans of many things…for all we ought to have thought, and have not thought; all we ought to have said, and have not said; all we ought to have done…” That sounded like mindfulness to me. But this literally was an ancient reference.

Next, my youngest daughter is a Robin William’s fan extraordinaire and we continued our movie marathon with the, Dead Poets Society (1989). In it Robin invokes the Latin phrase “carpe diem” or seize the day. This is followed by the first line of a poem, “Gather ye rosebuds while ye may” written by Robert Herrick in the 17th century. Again, mindfulness. And again, an old reference.

Finally, I received a holiday mug inscribed: “Time and tide waits for no Man” (St Marher, 1225). I was seeing mindfulness everywhere, but suspecting this concept of mindfulness has been with us, well, from the beginning.

Since I apparently can’t avoid the topic of mindfulness every which way I turn, I thought I would start the new bee season on a, well, mindful note.

Let me start by arguing that in a straight forward sense beekeepers are by definition mindful (at least part of the time). After all, you had better be “in the moment” when you pop the top off a colony consisting of tens of thousands of stinging insects.

I further suggest that we beekeepers are under the burden of the Beekeeper’s Year which is roughly half the length of the annual calendar year. We start in March and for the most part end our honey season in July. This relentless task master can both infuse and rob beekeepers of mindfulness.

The beeyard can consist of many long, laborious, hectic days. But to the passionate beekeeper these labors are often punctuated with moments of clarity and appreciation. Mindfulness – right?

Mindfulness also appears to have elements of purposefulness. Like many of you I accomplished many of my stated beekeeping objectives this past year, but some projects were left on the table. Perhaps this will be the year to perfect comb honey production, collect pollen, make better queens, participate in local, county or state events, or be a mentor to a new and/or young beekeeper.

In summary, mindfulness then, appears to be a new spin on an old, highly effective, and intrinsic concept. To mix metaphors a bit: do 10 things really well instead of 20 things mediocre; relax; and remember to smell the roses as you enjoy the journey. Words of wisdom to be sure.

So with a final fond farewell and with a last furtive glance over our beekeeping shoulders let us set our sights on the new beekeeping season that lies ahead remembering to be ever more diligent, purposeful, aware, or in a word — mindful.
Keeping in Touch — Find a Local Association

Ashtabula County Beekeepers
www.facebook.com/AshtabulaCountyBeekeepersAssociation

Athens County Area Bee
http://athensbeekeepers.org/

Brown County Beekeepers
www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org

Butler County Beekeepers
www.facebook.com/pages/Butler-County-Beekeepers-Association

Carroll County Beekeepers Assn.
Jean: music7gal@aol.com

Central Ohio Beekeepers
www.centralohiobeekeepers.org

Clinton County Beekeepers
buckleyfarm@yahoo.com

Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers
www.columbianamahoningbeekeepers.webs.com

Coshocton County Beekeepers
www.coshoctionbeekkeepers.com/

East Central Beekeepers
www.e-coba.org

Geauga County Beekeepers
www.geaugacountybeekeepers.org

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers
www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

Greater Grand Lakes Beekeepers
https://www.facebook.com/GreaterGrandLakeBeekeepers

Greene County Beekeepers
www.gcbeekeepers.com

Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers
www.guernseynoblebeekeepers.com

Harrison County Beekeepers
bobhooker2010@gmail.com

Highland County Beekeepers
www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com

Hocking County Beekeepers
https://www.facebook.com/HockingCountyBeekeepers

Jefferson County Beekeepers
catalina2982@aol.com

Knox County Beekeepers
www.knoxbees.com

Lawrence County Beekeepers
reidapiary@bright.net

Lorain County Beekeepers
www.loraincountybeekeepers.org

Maumee Valley Beekeepers
www.facebook.com/pages/Maumee-Valley-Bee-Keepers-Association

Medina County Beekeepers
www.medinabeekeepers.com

Miami Valley Beekeepers
www.mvbeekeepers.org

Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers
http://www.movba.org/

Morrow County Area Honey Bee
www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Morrow-County-Beekeepers-Association

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers
http://local-nwoba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/

Portage County Beekeepers
www.Portagecountybeekeepers.com

Richland Area Beekeepers
www.richlandareabeekeepers.com

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers
www.srvbeekeeping.com

Scioto Valley Beekeepers
www.sciotovalleybeekeepers.com

Southwestern Ohio Beekeepers
www.swoba.org

Stark County Beekeepers
www.starkbeekeepers.org

Summit County Beekeepers
www.summitbeekeepers.com

Tri-County Beekeepers
www.tricountybeekeepers.org

Tri-State Beekeepers Assn.
www.tristatebeekeepers.com

Trumbull County Beekeepers
www.trumbullcountybeekeepers.org

Tuscarawas County Beekeepers Club
www.tuscarawascountybeecubl.com

Urban Beekeepers of Columbus
Cheryl: ubco2014@yahoo.com
https://www.facebook.com/groups/629509607177176/

Warren County Beekeepers
www.warrencountybeekeepers.org/

West Central Ohio Beekeepers
www.wcoba.com

Snip and Save

Join an association this year!
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.
- Members can receive a discount on American Bee Journal Magazine
- Provide educational meeting once a year (Fall Conference).
- 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 now a 501c3

Our newly assigned 501c3 status will allow OSBA to expand our support of local associations and beekeepers.

We will now have more access to grants, and we can act as a fiscal agents for those associations who partner with us in the grant process. If your club is not a 501c3, and needs a fiscal agent for a grant, we can be that fiscal agent.

When we receive donations, those donations have the potential to be tax-deductible to donor. Even your dues could potentially be a tax deduction (check with your tax professional).

We now have the ability to apply for grants and other public or private funding available only to IRS-recognized 501c3 organizations.

We also are eligible for discounted advertising rates, including possible free tv and radio public service announcements.

OSBA is also looking into the possibility of using our 501c3 as an umbrella for other organizations.

Now that we have our 501c3, we plan on putting it to good use!

No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

Salted Honey Fudge

1/3 c. honey
24 oz. chocolate chips
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 t. vanilla
Sea Salt

Spray a 9x9 pan with Pam.

In a large pot, melt together the honey, condensed milk and chocolate chips.

Stir until completely melted and smooth.

Remove from heat, add vanilla extract.

Pour into pan. Sprinkle a generous amount of sea salt on the top...pat in gently.

Let it cool.

Cut into squares and serve.
Bee-ing Safe in the Beeyard  Part II– Lifting Techniques

Bryan Boyd

Back Safety Techniques

Sizing the Load – Do Not Manually Lift Heavy Objects

1. Before even attempting to lift an object, it is important to size up the load. Determine if the load is light enough to lift. If the load is too heavy, try to do the following:
   a. Make objects smaller.
   b. Use smaller containers.
   c. Use lighter containers.
   d. Lighten the loads in containers.

If the size and weight of the load cannot be reduced, it must be determined if a team lift or lifting device is necessary.

1. Reaching – Try to Not Reach Above Shoulders
2. Reaching for objects, especially in high places, can strain the back. Some back safety techniques to use are:
   a. Reach only as high as your shoulders.
   b. Use an approved stool or stepladder if needing to get closer to the load.

Test the weight of the load by pushing up on a corner before lifting. *If it's too heavy, get help.*

1. Bending – Do Not Bend Over from the Waist
   a. When bending down to reach or lift, move whole body to protect the back. Some back safety techniques to use are:
      i. Bend the knees and hips, not the back.
      ii. Kneel down on one knee, if necessary.

Get as close to the object as possible so you will not have to reach with your arms.

Lifting – Do Not Use Back to Bend

1. Lifting is one of the most common causes of back injuries. Some back safety techniques to use are:
   a. Size up the load. If it seems like more than you can handle, get help.
   b. Face the load squarely.
   c. Get a firm footing.
   d. Tighten your abdominal muscles to support your back when you lift.
   e. Bend your knees and get a grip on the load.
   f. Lift with your legs – not your back.
   g. Lift gradually, not suddenly.
   h. Keep the load close to your body.

   **Do not twist while lifting.**
IN YOUR HIVES.
OFF YOUR MIND.

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.
Subscribe to American Bee Journal (ABJ) and Bee Culture (BC) so you can keep up with the most recent buzz. Here’s a crossword from just their January issues….do you know the answers? As a member of OSBA, you can receive a discounted subscription rate to American Bee Journal.

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**Beekeeping 2015**

Complete the crossword below

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**Across**

1. : These are painted red and used to moderate temps in hive in winter ABJ 55
2. What inspired some activism BC 73
3. Country with national registry of honey tasting experts BC 60
4. One of Jamie Ellis’ Beekeeping Resolutions ABJ 34
5. Software for beekeepers BC 39
6. Joe Trayner description of beekeeping emotions BC 83
7. Early apis subspecies introduced into the US BC 70
8. Honey bee subspecies with traits may improve honey bee health ABJ 47
9. One of Ann Harman’s Resolutions BC 92
10. Polarisopes help detect this in honey ABJ

**Down**

2. What you should carry if you do cut-outs ABJ 31
3. One of the many tasks of a honey bee salivary glands BC 23
4. Apis intermissa is this beekeeper’s type of girl ABJ 78
5. Tax Tip for April 15 ABJ 53
6. Country recently added to the True Source Alert ABJ 18
7. What Randy Oliver is Messin’ With ABJ
honey plus the tare weight, the honey is within the acceptable moisture limits. For example, honey that is in a one pound jar should be 1 lb. plus the tare weight. Even though glass jars are made in mass production there can be a variation in their weight, you’re checking the weight should be done on the jar that you actually use. Because you have carefully selected the jars, you do not sell these honey jars that are entered in the fair. You should take the honey home, pour it into a jar that did not qualify as a show jar and sell that. The show jar is then washed, wrapped carefully and stored for the next time you want to enter a show.

Honey that is stored in buckets or large cans (60 pound tins) can separate into the different floral sources and on occasion give you different colored jars when they are filled from the large container. The reason that you are required to enter a set of three or more jars at most shows is to verify that the honey in the entry came from the same batch. So you must be careful that the jars are the same color. When you prepare jars for the show, make an extra one as sometimes accidents happen.

The judge will taste the honey to see that the beekeeper didn’t do something to destroy the flavor of the honey such as over heat the honey or harvest the honey to soon when it has high moisture and is possibility fermenting. The judge should not let his/her preference for a certain type of honey, enter into the decision. If you happen to be a wine maker, fermentation may not be such a bad thing but in an extracted honey class, it is taboo.

The granulated honey class can have subcategories such as white, amber, or flavored. The best jar for granulated honey is one that has a wide mouth. The granulated honey should have a consistency of creamy peanut butter, smooth, fine crystals, and able to hold its shape. A person making granulated honey should use the Dyce method of making it. Several people get confused with similar terms such as honey butter, creamed honey, and whipped honey. These items are different items and usually require refrigeration. The ideal temperature where honey goes into crystallization is 57 degrees. If the temperature is too warm the granulated honey could go into the liquid form. Some people will grind up the honey crystals while the majority of the people that make granulated honey will use a starter.

You need to read the fair rules to see which jars are acceptable for the class and how many jars are required. Generally for honey shows the Queenline and Gamber Classic jars are the ones specified. Also the jars need to be made of glass as a polariscope may be used by the judge and the plastic lenses and will give odd views when plastic jars are inserted. The polariscope reveals all of the debris that may be in the honey and also shows off the imperfections in the glass jars. Thus you need to select through cases of jars to find those jars that contain no air bubbles or scratches in the glass. Be sure to wash the jars to remove any batch numbers that the producer may have sprayed on the jar. Let the jars air dry so you don’t have lint from drying the jars. The caps should also reflect a new condition and not have scratches or dents. Many people will make the switch of new caps when they reach the show. Do not apply any labels to the jars that obstruct the viewing of the honey.

The gift basket class usually has a maximum weight of the filled container. Even though it is listed as a basket, there have been boxes that qualify. Think of it as being a gift that will be given to someone. You would want it to be attractive and filled with a variety of items. The quality of the items should be some of the better things that you produce. Some rules permit the inclusion of items that were purchased, but the majority of the items in the basket should come from your apiary or home.

The award best of show usually is the entry that has been given the most points. If there are several products with identical points, the judge must make a choice as to which one is the best.

When you are asked about pollination and I have found that rather than cite so dollars of value are performed by the honeybee, it is more striking to point out deformed fruit due to the seeds that did not develop because a side of the flower was not pollinated.

If you decide to take your honey to a show or fair, you will now have a better product if you follow some of the suggestions in this article. It is a good way to get your name out to the public as a honey producer.
Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2015 Membership Form

Ohio State Beekeepers Association is a 501c3 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
Just a Few Highlights from the OSBA Fall Conference

Crowds Shopping for Bargains

Ask the Experts Session

Honey Judging Contest
Jim Thompson, Judge

Sue Cobey

Michael Palmer