4-H Partnership Program Winners

The newly developed OSBA 4-H partnership program received over 20 applications for the 5 finalist slots. The overall goal of the program is to promote partnerships between 4-H, local associations and OSBA, thereby strengthening the education of future generations of beekeepers.

OSBA is providing funds to help offset the costs of beekeeping equipment, classes and bees. The local association provides support through meetings and mentoring. The participants are all enrolled in 4-H and will be following the 4-H Beekeeping Handbook, that was updated by members of the Greene County Beekeepers Association.

The 4-H Partnership Program Committee, and others, volunteered their time to review the applications, using an evaluation checklist. Tim Arheit, Michael Doseck, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Dan O’Callaghan, Mike Soboleski, Marishka Wile, and Alex Zomchek worked diligently to read through the multi-page applications and letters of recommendation.

Congratulations to our winners, their mentors, and their support associations:

- **Elizabeth Love**
  Roy Hendrickson, Mentor
  Geauga Beekeepers Association

- **Ethan Friend**
  Larry Baird, Mentor
  Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association

- **India Bradford**
  Michael Bradford, Mentor
  Adams County Beekeepers

- **Luke Ontrop**
  Ray Moeller, Mentor
  Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association

- **Jacob Shuman**
  Isaac Barnes, Mentor
  Scioto Valley Beekeepers Association

All applicants received the 2 DVD set of *Beekeeper Training*. We wish all our applicants a wonderful beekeeping experience this year. We look forward to the winners’ presentations at the OSBA Fall Conference on October 31st in Plain City, OH.
Welcome new beekeepers and members of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association! It’s been great to be able to support many of the local associations beekeeping classes by offering their students handouts and a very special introductory offer on their first year of OSBA membership. About 1000 students took classes from our local Ohio associations that requested the information packets. The level of enthusiasm and excitement from the students I’ve had the privilege to talk too is infectious.

Late this March I was very excited to see one of the first Ohio State Beekeepers Association “Save the Honey Bee” license plate to come off the presses on one of our board member’s truck. This plate become available on March 23rd and is the result of over 2 years of effort by Paul Lane and many others including our members who wrote in to their state representatives to get the law creating the plate passed. I’ve seen a lot of excitement over the plate at the conferences I’ve been able to attend, the most recent being the Southwest Bee School in Southwest Ohio. The sale of these plates will generate funds for OSBA earmarked for promoting beekeeping, education and research. I sincerely expect these funds will enable OSBA to pursue grants and additional opportunities that have not been obtainable in the past. These plates will also help generate public awareness and open up a dialogue with non beekeepers as to how they can help the honey bee.

This past March I also had the opportunity to help the panel of judges review the applications for the 4H partnership program. While this was the first year OSBA has offered this grant, we received many great applications from deserving students. The most difficult part was selecting only 5 recipients from among so many qualified applicants. I am hopeful that with continued commitment by OSBA and your donations and support we will be able to help even more young, well deserving beekeepers with their 4H beekeeping projects next year.

Speaking of which, OSBA is now a 501c3 organization which means your donations and even your annual membership may be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor and IRS Publication 526. Why not save on your income taxes and help another 4H student become a beekeeper next year!

While OSBA is not political organization, I will encourage you to thank your county commissioners for supporting your inspection program. The $5 fee you pay to register your apiary does not cover the cost of inspection and each county must budget to pay a local inspector. While this typically is a very small amount, tight local budgets have caused some counties to cut the inspection program. In the short term this may save money, but it does have an negative effect on beekeepers both in the county with the canceled program and in adjacent counties. Cases of American Foul Brood are much more common in hives adjacent to counties without an inspector.

Fortunately some counties have reinstated their local inspector but there are many that have not. If you are in a county without an inspector, you can help by writing your county commissioners and encourage them to reinstate their inspector. The inspection program helps protect your colonies from diseases, gathers useful data for ODA to ensure the state program and many local inspectors are a valuable educational resource, particularly for the newer beekeepers. Inspectors are there to help you, the beekeeper.

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.
Starting on March 23, the Save the Honey Bee License plate rolled off the assembly line and onto the cars of enthusiastic beekeepers. After almost two years worth of effort by Paul Lane and OSBA, the long road of paperwork, signatures, appearances before the House and Senate, and much public support, the plates are arriving through the mail to smiling beekeepers. Not only will this plate help bring public awareness to the importance of honey bees and beekeepers, it will also provide funding for OSBA projects relating to research, education and outreach. One project with multiple benefits, thanks to a team effort.

Want to order one for yourself? Just go to www.oplates.com when you renew your plates. Under specialty plates it is listed as "Ohio Beekeepers". What will your plate say?

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**New OSBA Life Members**

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

- William Dickson III
- Travis Drabik
- Thomas Francis
- Larry Hartzler
- Debbie Seib
- Randall Westfall
- Randall Wilke

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**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 advertisers are appropriate year-round!
Walter Rothenbuhler – A Force in Ohio Beekeeping

Jim Thompson

Editors Note: At the OSBA Fall Conference Silent Auction, I won a stack of old beekeeping magazines, donated by Daryl Stoller. The first issue I opened had a two page article on the work of Walter Rothenbuhler and his staff at OSU. I asked Jim Thompson for his personal insights about one of the great contributors to beekeeping here in Ohio.

When Terry Lieberman-Smith asked me about an article on Walter Rothenbuhler, I began thinking. My first thought was along what has been published in the history of the OSBA, but then I remembered the contacts and coincidences that I had with Walter over the years.

Walter was born May 4, 1920 in Monroe County, Ohio. He graduated from high school in Woodsfield, Ohio and began college at the Ohio State University. After his first two years at Ohio State, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Department from 1942 to 1946. In 1944, he married Claribel (Claire) Hall of Ashtabula, Ohio. He finished up his education at Iowa State College, by earning a Bachelor’s of Science, Master of Science and in 1954 his Ph.D. He started as an Assistant Professor at Iowa State working with O.W. Park, and Frank Pellet and became a Professor. Two of Walter’s staff members at Iowa State were Victor C. Thompson and Harold Charlet. Besides belonging to several professional organizations, Walter was also the science editor of the American Bee Journal.

He became an outstanding authority on the genetics of behavior and disease resistance with emphasis on the honeybee. In 1957, he found drones in his gynandromorph-producing stock that were combinations of haploid and diploid tissue. Many of his instruments and tools for artificial insemination are in the Bee Museum in Wooster. He worked along with Victor Thompson on the disease, American Foulbrood and found some bees were resistant to the disease. Edward G. Brown had a line of American Foulbrood resistant bees and the highly susceptible bees of Homer Van Scoy were used as a control group.

Iowa State College became Iowa State University while Walter was there and he and Claire raised four children. In 1962, Professor Dwight M. DeLong had retired from Ohio State University as the Professor in the Department of Zoology and Entomology. OSU recruited Walter, his staff, and equipment to come to Ohio. Sue Valentine Cooper’s father was a Professor at OSU and hosted the Rothenbuhlers. So Walter came in October 1962 and his staff came in January 1963. Even though I grew up in Ames and was there at the same time as Walter, I did not know him. He lived in an area of Ames that we knew as “campus town” and I lived in the “downtown” area. His children would have gone to the same high school that I attended, but they were many years behind me and finished high school in the Columbus area.

OSBA meetings had traditionally been held in the Columbus area, because the Ohio State Professors lived there and usually led the meetings. It was not uncommon to attend an OSBA meeting in the early 60’s and to hear Walter speak.

Research Bulletin 1160, entitled Disappearing Disease: was published in June 1984. It shows that Walter and his students were active in many fields of honey bee research. Many of his students went on to work in or head the U.S.D.A. and Canadian Bee Laboratories.

During my term as Ohio State Beekeeper Association’s Vice president, Eva Crane of England came to the United States to receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Ohio State University on March 22, 1985. Eva was an author of many honey bee books and the head of ISBA. Walter made the arrangements for her to speak at the Ohio State Beekeepers spring meeting.

A retirement banquet was held on July 20, 1985 for Walter at Ohio State University and was a part of the OSBA summer meeting. Ohio State Representative Mike Stinziano and Ohio House Speaker Vern Riffe presented a signed commendation at the banquet.

On October 10, 1989, Ohio State University officially dedicated the Walter C. Rothenbuhler Honey Bee Biology Laboratory in Columbus, Ohio. The laboratory was due to the efforts of the OSBA, particularly Hobart Fulton, faculty, deans, chancellors and even legislators. Even though Walter retired in 1985, this building was a tremendous improvement over the drafty remodeled house that was his office. However the Rothenbuhler Bee Laboratory seemed to be incomplete as it was missing a plaque. This was rectified at the awards banquet of the Entomology Department at The Ohio State University in 1994.

Walter died August 14, 2002 after a long illness with Parkinson’s disease.

In 2008, the small building where Walter Rothenbuhler had done his queen rearing grafting and some genetic research was moved from the Columbus area to the Ohio Research and Development Center’s campus in Wooster, Ohio. In 2009, the Ohio State Beekeepers Association formed an Ohio Beekeeping Hall of Fame for beekeepers that have been outstanding in the field of beekeeping. Walter Rothenbuhler was in the first group of inductees.
Bees at the Ohio State Capitol

It all started with a phone call. Tamra Ansel contacted OSBA on beekeeping and the possibility of having OSBA provide support for a hive at the Ohio State House. OSBA is pleased to announce that through cooperative effort, Tamra’s request is being fulfilled. She and her grounds team will manage the hives. OSBA purchased the woodenware from two Ohio bee supply companies and OSBA supporters, Queen Right Colonies, Ltd., and Simpson’s Bee Supply. Central Ohio Beekeepers is providing the initial package of bees. Nina Bagley of Nina’s Village Apiary is providing the replacement local queen, and mentoring.

The Grand Unveiling of the Capitol hives will be April 22nd. Stop by and help support beekeeping at the newest beekeeping team at the Ohio Capitol.

Thanks to beekeeping community teamwork, a hive of honey bees will be living at the Ohio State Capitol.
OSBA Fall Conference— Saturday, October 31st 2015—Mark Your Calendars!

The Buzz is on in Plain City where the OSBA Fall Conference will be packed with a large colony of Ohio beekeepers. It may seem a long time until October, but before you know it the hectic beekeeping season will be over, and will be wrapping up 2015 with our fall conference. On Saturday, October 31, which is also Halloween. No tricks….only treats!

Our conference will include exciting, educational speakers and a wide variety of vendors...and a few surprises! Our Guest Speaker line-up includes Dr. Thomas Seeley, Kent Williams, and Dr. Reed Johnson.

Plus our annual Honey Contest, judged by James Thompson. As in past year, attendees can watch and ask questions as Jim assesses the entries.

Everyone will also have the opportunity to meet our for 4-H Partnership winners. The winners will be giving a short presentation on their beekeeping season during the general assembly.

Aside from gathering up great beekeeping information that you can use to plan your 2016 beekeeping season, The conference is also the perfect time to stock-up on your beekeeping supplies. Building equipment during winter is one of the best ways to get ready for the surge of Spring beekeeping activities.

Our conference will also include voting on Executive Board Officers and some Area Directors. Thanks to an update in the OSBA Constitution, approved last year by our membership, this year’s elections will allow for absentee ballots. More details to follow.
Is Dust Produced During Corn Planting a Problem in Ohio?
Reed M. Johnson Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University

Corn planting is a dusty process. Large planters rumble through barren fields to put tens of thousands of seeds per acre into the soil in April or May each year. In the process soil is kicked up and blown away to create a characteristic dust plume.

Corn planting and the dust it creates would be of limited interest to beekeepers if it were not for the fact that a few small particles containing high concentrations of neonicotinoid insecticides are mixed into that impressive cloud of planter dust. Over 90% of the corn planted in the U.S. is treated with a “seed treatment” coating which contains as much as 1.25 mg of neonicotinoid insecticide per seed. Small amounts of this seed coating get chipped off or rubbed off during planting to produce insecticidal dust. So, while most of the dust produced during corn planting is just good old fashioned dirt, a very small proportion of the particles in that dust plume are pieces of seed treatment that contain very high concentrations of neonicotinoid insecticides.

As most everyone knows, the most commonly used neonicotinoid insecticides are highly toxic to bees. The toxicity is so great that a single treated seed theoretically contains enough insecticide to kill 80,000 bees. The insecticides currently used as corn seed treatments are such potent poisons for bees that it only takes a miniscule amount of dust to produce a harmful effect.

Beekeepers in the US and Canada have observed moderate bee kill events associated with corn planting because foraging bees are returning to the hive with neonicotinoid-laden seed treatment dust packed into their pollen loads. Nurse bees inside the hive consume this seed treatment dust in the pollen, are poisoned, and appear in small piles of dead bees in front of colonies around corn planting time. Seventy percent of dead bees sampled during corn planting in Ontario were found to contain neonicotinoid seed treatment insecticides (Government of Canada, Health Canada, Pest Management Regulatory Agency 2014).

It seems likely that dead bees collected in Ohio during corn planting would be similarly contaminated as those in Ontario, but no one has really looked. That’s why we would like to get dead bees collected during corn planting from beekeepers in Ohio -- so that we can determine the prevalence and severity of bee kills occurring as corn is planted across the state.

How does a beekeeper know that a hive may be experiencing a “bee kill”? As in most of beekeeping, you don’t know what you can’t measure and record. If there is grass growing up in front of your hives it is quite likely that you do not see most dead bees coming out of a colony. Dead bees easily get lost in the grass and may be rapidly eaten by scavenging animals. In this situation a beekeeper will only notice a really large increase in the number of dead bees as they pile up in the grass or on the bottom board. In our experience, the increase in dead bees associated with corn planting is not likely to be so large that it can be observed if dead bees are lost in the grass.

To better measure and capture the dead bees coming out of a colony you can build a dead bee trap. Start by building a 2’x4’ box out of 2”x6”s or 2”x4”s. Attach ½” hardware cloth to the top and window screen or ⅛” hardware cloth to the bottom and place in front of your colonies. Dead bees will be dropped in the trap, but the hardware cloth will protect them from being eaten by most animals. A cheap and easy alternative is to place a piece of cardboard in front of your colonies so that you can observe the dead bees as they accumulate at the entrance.

Put your dead bee trap in front of your colony or colonies by mid-April so that you can see how many dead bees are produced by your colonies under normal conditions. Empty the trap twice a week and note the number of dead bees that you’re dumping out. The number of dead bees produced by different colonies can be quite variable depending on the size and condition of the colony and the (Continued on page 8)
placement of the dead bee trap.

It is difficult to predict exactly when corn planting will occur, but over the last few years it has been in early May. When you see planting activity in your area note any change in the number of dead bees you’re collecting. Keep tracking the number of dead bees into the week after corn planting. Does the number go down?

Are there corn seed treatment insecticides in dead bees collected during corn planting?

Dump the dead bees you’ve collected during corn planting into a plastic zip-top bag, write your name and the date on the bag with a permanent marker, and put it in your freezer. When you get a chance, mail the bees to my lab: Reed Johnson, Dept. of Entomology, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, OH 44691. Include a note with your contact information, the location of the apiary from which the bees were collected and your observations regarding the number of dead bees accumulating in this apiary.

We will send the bees off for neonicotinoid analysis to determine whether your dead bees were exposed to seed treatment insecticides. Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee that I will be able to provide you with your results from the pesticide analysis, but I will write a summary of what we find for a future OSBA newsletter. Also, note that any results we find will not be admissible in any sort of legal proceeding -- please consult with your county apiary inspector and work with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

The future

Methods for reducing bees’ exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides during corn planting are currently under investigation, but it is a challenging technical problem. More information about the levels of exposure bees receive during corn planting in Ohio will aid in the development of appropriate measures to reduce bees’ exposure to these insecticides.


Ohio Buckeye Belle Queens sold out for May, available in mid-June. All OBBQs are guaranteed, and numbered with a yellow disc placed on the queen’s thorax. If the queen you buy does not have the numbered yellow tag, you do not have a guaranteed official 2015 OBBQ. All OBBQ are produced in Madison County Ohio from selected drone and queen mating stock.

Visit www.ohiobuckeyebelle.com to get information on queens. Queens are also available from a few selected vendors.

Free beginning bee classes on line at: www.beeclass.com .


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.
Jekyll and Hyde Hive Monitoring

A recent phone call with a relatively new and very conscientious beekeeper. This was also in the last week of March. My measured response went something like, “Well it all depends.” The audible sigh on the other end was not so measured. I then proceeded with a diatribe on monitoring. I briefly talked about testing before treating; about the dangers of generalized, prophylactic treatments; etc.

Not surprisingly, this same conversation was reiterated numerous times over the course of the following weeks at various meetings, bee schools, and the like. Don’t get me wrong; these are great conversations to have. So much so in fact, that I thought the topic of monitoring needed a wider audience; particularly at the start of a new beekeeping year.

It is no doubt over simplistic to say that most beekeepers come in three flavors: (1) zealot enthusiasts (usually but not always brand spanking new beekeepers); (2) casual, yet purposeful and somewhat methodical plodders; and (3) the ubiquitous well intentioned, but don’t-seem-to-consistently-get-to-it procrastinators (Jekyll and Hyde beekeepers). Truth be told, most of us have cycled through all three of these stages which interestingly enough seem to be correlated to how long we have been in beekeeping, along with what other distractors we have going on in our lives in at particular time.

In the broadest sense monitoring is a mindset. As successful dieters talk about having to make a “lifestyle change” versus just calorie counting and spurious gimmicks; monitoring is more than just a series of tasks. Hive monitoring is an approach; a methodology; a philosophy to beekeeping.

With Ohio and the surrounding states now consistently reporting an annual near 50%+ bee mortality we have to ask ourselves what more can or should we be doing. More to the point, and let me be absolutely clear that I mean nothing disparaging when I say: we can no longer afford what I call beekeeping by faith. Hoping, wishing, and praying will not get the job done. And to stem this tide of hive attrition it will take a dedicated, concerted beekeeper lifestyle change. Boldly, this boils down to working smarter and not harder with your bees.

The good news is that if you adopt a monitoring mentality you should see a significant and more sustainable return on your beekeeping investment. Monitoring should be synonymous with being a beekeeper vs. a bee-haver. It is a purpose driven approach. Essentially you: “train your brain” what to look for; when to look for certain things; and what to do when you find certain conditions.

Monitoring can be further broken down into a set of practical macro to micro issues. Example: you monitor your hive “boxes”; swapping for brood production, swarm control, and maintenance issues. You monitor for seasonal pests from macro (skunks, raccoons, etc.) to micro (mites, small hive beetle, wax moths, etc.). You further monitor for diseases (viral, bacterial, spores, etc.). The key is monitoring.

Now, many of you reading to this point no doubt appreciate all the more that audible sigh I referenced at the start of this article. Why can’t it just be simple!

As in dieting vs. lifestyle change there is a bit of a paradigm shift that is often seen as pain and suffering. Additionally, this also appears at first to just add an additional burden on our already too busy lives. Fear not. A cardinal rule to monitoring is that it does not take a lot of time. Instead, it takes timing. In other words: if you routinely check your hives, and then do what you need to do, when you need to do it, you ultimately will save time, energy, and money (not to mention your bees!).

I recently participated in an OSU “Pruning and Pollinators” workshop and paid attention, for a change, when the other guy was talking. Though I help orchardists with pollination I formerly only had a cursory knowledge of fruit tree specifics. Long story short, I now have a working knowledge of roots stocks, grafting methods, selected varietals, seasonal sprays, etc. not to mention various pruning techniques. I literally cannot look at a fruit tree the same old way again. And so it should be with beehive monitoring!

Given the continued decline in colony health in the beekeeping industry; in my opinion, the importance of adopting a monitoring regiment cannot be overstated. I am currently working with Terry Lieberman-Smith, Vice President of OSBA, on an American Beekeeping Federation grant to develop a thorough, general purpose diagnostic/monitoring kit. More to come.

In closing, should you start treating for mites now? It all depends.
In March 2014, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) launched the Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry (OSCR), a secure and voluntary web map showing locations in Ohio which are susceptible to damage by pesticide drift or off-target applications. Since then, over 500 pesticide applicators, beekeepers and producers in the organic and specialty crop industries have signed up to use the system. To help protect user information, the maps are not available to the general public; rather, only authorized users such as pesticide applicators, commercial plant producers and ODA-registered beekeepers are permitted access. If you are concerned about pesticide exposure, consider mapping your hive locations on OSCR.

Usage of mapping systems such as OSCR is growing throughout the United States. At least 17 other states have implemented programs similar to OSCR. DriftWatch, for example, is a popular program used in neighboring states. The overall goal of the Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry is to aid communication between producers, beekeepers and pesticide applicators to reduce the risk of pesticide damage. Applicators are not only responsible for their own protection, but also for the protection of other people, non-target organisms and our environment. To achieve this, they are required to follow label directions that may include buffer zones near beehives, lakes, streams, pastures, sensitive crops, houses or schools. They must also avoid causing drift, which may increase the possibility of injury to wildlife, pollinators, domestic animals, adjacent crops or the contamination of water. Knowing where these locations are is critical for applicators, and OSCR is designed to provide this information as simply and securely as possible.

This new tool does not replace the ODA's apiary registration program, but supplements it. OSCR is a free and voluntary way to inform pesticide applicators of your hive locations and contact information. Pollinators are given special protection under Ohio regulation: OAC 901:5-11-02 subsections (B) 15 and 16. Pesticide applications which are toxic to honey bees are prohibited at times when pollinating insects are actively working in the target area. Also, under certain conditions, if beekeepers are registered with ODA and have their apiaries labeled with contact information, then applicators will need to contact them before honey bee-toxic pesticides are applied to a nearby crop. As some hives are hidden or moved throughout the year, having a mapping system such as OSCR is a great benefit to both beekeepers and pesticide applicators.

Enrollment and mapping is done completely online by the user through the OSCR website http://www.agri.ohio.gov/scr. Once enrollment is complete and you are issued a username and password, you will be given access to mapping tools with which you can map your apiary locations and update them at any time during the year. Also, OSCR users will soon be able to purchase “Do Not Drift” yard signs. These signs are screen-printed on 24” x 18” corrugated plastic and can be placed near your apiaries to serve as a visual reminder to applicators that your property may be sensitive to the products they are using. Signs will be available for purchase through the OSCR website in the near future.

For more information, visit the OSCR website or contact Jared Shaffer at:
Ohio Department of Agriculture
Attention: Jared Shaffer
8995 E. Main Street, Bldg. 23
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-3399
Phone: 614-728-6386
Fax: 614-466-9754
Email: SensitiveCropRegistry@agri.ohio.gov
For the fourth year, honey bees and beekeepers will share the midway with cotton candy, amusement rides and thousands of visitors at this summer’s Ohio State Fair.

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association has finalized arrangements to sponsor educational exhibits at the 2015 state fair, and the planning for an expanded schedule of events has been underway for several months. Last year, OSBA’s beekeeping pavilion attracted more than 1,000 visitors per day, nearly doubling the number of guests from the previous year.

The pavilion is located along the midway and has more than 4,000 square feet of exhibit, demonstration and vendor space – all devoted to beekeeping.

Although observation hives and daily bee beard demonstrations are popular with the fair crowd, enthusiastic volunteers are the prime reason for the pavilion’s success, says Nina Bagley, chairperson of OSBA’s fair committee.

“The local clubs and individual volunteers who spend a day in the pavilion greeting visitors and answering their questions make this one of the most interactive and popular displays at the fair,” said Bagley. “We’re seeing the same families visit for three and four years in a row. It’s become a big part of their fair visit.”

“How do I become a beekeeper?” is probably the most asked question we get,” said Bagley. “Other questions involve the new license plate, starting a pollinator garden and about everything you can imagine. It’s amazing how many people care about honey bees,” she said.

**Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are again needed for the pavilion at the 2015 state fair. The pavilion is open each day from Aug. 2-9. Approximately 6 volunteers are needed from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Local clubs can choose a day to “host” the pavilion with their members and there are many opportunities for individual volunteers. Volunteers get free admission. Success of the pavilion depends on the volunteers and Bagley asks OSBA members to consider helping. She can be reached at ninabagley@me.com with questions or to sign up.

“We stay busy, but volunteers are encouraged to walk around and take in the fair during a break in the activities at the pavilion,” she said. Clubs often host the pavilion on certain days and bring exhibits that are immensely popular with visitors. “Many Ohio clubs have great educational displays that attract attention,” she said. “One club spends the entire day making balloon toys, and of course, that’s a hit with children.”

Another attraction that has become a hit with fairgoers is the American Honey Princess, sponsored by the American Beekeeping Federation. Princesses in past years have interacted with visitors, given cooking demonstrations and even donned a bee beard!

**Honey Contest, Display**

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association is again funding the honey judging competition and displays at the state fair. New this year are contests for the best barbeque sauce and baked goods made with local honey.

A complete list of the honey classes and honey-related products, in addition to photography, is available on the registration website at www.ohiostatefair.com

If you like the atmosphere of one of the country’s largest state fairs and have time available in August, consider joining OSBA’s fair committee. The committee is recruiting volunteers with new perspectives and ideas to keep the pavilion fresh and interesting. Aside from Bagley, members are Dwight Wells, Zale Maxwell, Marishka Wile, Tina Bobek and David Crawford.
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.

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.
Polish Those Bottles….Test Those Recipes….  
Ohio State Fair is on the Horizon

This year’s Ohio State Fair has a new honey entry…honey barbecue sauce.  Fire up the grill, invite your friends over to taste test your recipe, and start perfecting your Honey BBQ Sauce recipe for the Culinary Arts Division 3305, Sauces class #5. Here is the link: www.ohiostatefair.com/index.php/competitions-37/creative-arts-competitions/cooking-baking-a-decorating

* Click on “Information Packet (IP)” and go to page 24 to view the competition details.
* Enter on-line by clicking on the “Enter and Pay On Line Here”

Honey and Bee Items, Division 3105 is sponsored by OSBA. Use same information above but go to Page 9 to view competition details.

This year’s honey baking entries include:

♦ Breads
♦ Brownies
♦ Pies
♦ Cakes
♦ Cookies

The Honey Classes are:

♦ Water White and Extra White
♦ White
♦ Extra Light Amber to Light Amber
♦ Amber and Dark Amber
♦ Creamed/Granulated

Honey, Other Classes:

♦ Frames
♦ Gift Basket
♦ Beeswax Chunk

The Honey Bee Photography has moved to the Creative Arts Division 4309, Photography Classes 4 and 11. Use the following link: http://www.ohiostatefair.com/index.php/competitions-37/creative-arts-competitions/antiques-fashion-crafts-a-youth-arts

* Click on "Information Packet (IP)…” and go to Page 14 to view competition details
* Enter on-line by clicking on the "Enter and Pay On Line Here"

Now is the time to plan your entries, get your recipes set, polish those bottles, and most importantly, read the rules. I judge at county fairs, and there’s no fun in disqualifying an entry because the beekeeper didn’t read the rules.

All the details are now available on the Ohio State Fair website at www.ohiostatefair.com

Step out of your comfort zone, and proudly display the harvests from your hive. It’s a fun and creative way to help promote beekeeping.

I hope to see your name listed as a winner in the 4th Quarter OSBA newsletter.
# County Appointed Apiary Inspectors – 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inspector</th>
<th>2015 COUNTIES</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Wickerham</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>(937)544-1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Arheit</td>
<td>Allen</td>
<td>(419)371-1742</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Meherg</td>
<td>Ashland</td>
<td>(330)378-5552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Rzeszutek</td>
<td>Ashtabula</td>
<td>(440)969-0418</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everett Holmes</td>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>(740)767-2311</td>
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<td>Thomas Piper</td>
<td>Auglaize</td>
<td>(419)586-1435</td>
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<td>Jack Head</td>
<td>Belmont</td>
<td>(740)819-2443</td>
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<td>Chris Fry</td>
<td>Brown</td>
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<td>Don Popp</td>
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<td>Brad Mcclincy</td>
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<td>Jeff Harris</td>
<td>Clermont</td>
<td>(937)289-2722</td>
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<td>John Beilhart</td>
<td>Columbiana</td>
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<td>Harold Bretz</td>
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<td>Phil Bartosh</td>
<td>Cuyahoga</td>
<td>(216)351-6190</td>
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<td>Steve Brumbaugh</td>
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<td>Edwin Gehring</td>
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<td>Troy Leibengood</td>
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<td>Don Crock</td>
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<td>Dana Mcvay</td>
<td>Perry</td>
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<td>William Legg</td>
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<td>Tracy Alarcon</td>
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<td>Dan Bollett</td>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>(419)345-2973</td>
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<td>&quot;Sonny&quot; Barker</td>
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<td>Scott Svab</td>
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<td>Jake Allread</td>
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<td>Tuscarawas</td>
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<td>Kevin Browning</td>
<td>Van Wert</td>
<td>(419)495-4040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Defranco</td>
<td>Wyandot</td>
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NO APPOINTMENT MADE IN THESE COUNTIES

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Order California Package Bees
We are now accepting orders for 3 lb. package bees, call us today!

2015 New World Carniolan & Italian Package with Queen
3 lbs. for $120
*Prices are subject to change

We plan our delivery for approximately the third week in April (check our website for updates, www.queenrightcolonies.com & Facebook).

A Full line of Beekeeping Supplies in Stock Year Round!

We ship UPS | All major credit cards accepted. | Call today!

STORE HOURS:
(March 1 - Oct. 31)
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)
Videos, Podcasts, PowerPoints— OSBA has Great Information for the Busy Beekeeper

While there is a lot of information out there online about beekeeping, some of it is, well, let’s just say less than accurate. How is the beekeeper supposed to cut through all the information and sort through the great from the not so great.

New beekeepers love to post questions on Facebook and on many different forums. Sometimes the same question shows up on multiple Facebook pages and forums. On each page and forum, the new beekeeper is inundated with a slew of answers and opinions. I’ve had more than one newbee come to me at a club meeting and say “I posted a question on Facebook and now I’m really confused.”

OSBA is here to help provide Ohio beekeepers with useful, accurate, and reliable beekeeping strategies. Much of the information online is accurate, however, may not be applicable to our Ohio whether and honey flow.

I was reading some excellent information in an article the other day, but I realized that I would have to modify it if I wanted to implement those techniques in my apiary. My weather isn’t as warm as early, and my honey flow isn’t as long.

Our website hosts over 30 excellent videos created by Dr. Jim Tew and John Grafton. You can’t go wrong with the great information provided by these videos. Topics range from Assembling Hive Equipment to Transferring Bees. These videos are free to view online 24/7, or you can buy the set of videos if you don’t have good Internet connections. Next time you have five to ten minutes to spare, stop by the webpage and brush up on your beekeeping skills.

Our website also hosts a series of podcasts, consisting of interviews with a variety of beekeepers and partner groups. Experienced Ohio beekeepers will share their insights with you about the unique situations we have here in Ohio. You can download these to your Android or Apple device and listen while you are commuting or going about your day. Our podcast interviews can become part of your mentoring support group.

The PowerPoint presentations hosted on our websites were developed by Dana Stahlman. Each set of presentations will help both the new be and experienced beekeeper as the beekeeping season moves from early spring until fall.

Past editions of this newsletter are available electronically on our website. Feel free to read for the first time, or reread if you’re a long-term club member, all the great articles and event information from previous years. We can all brush up on some of our management skills that we have forgotten about during this long, cold winter.

CLUBS, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STATE FAIR PAVILION

For the OSBA pavilion at the Ohio State Fair to be successful, participation by Ohio’s beekeeping associations and volunteers is critical. A limited number of admission tickets are available. In addition, we would like to have your club’s banner or flag to hang in the pavilion during the fair. Banners will be returned immediately following the fair by U.S. Mail. If you would like to help, contact Nina Bagley at 614.783.7868 or ninabagley@me.com
Buzzing About
OSBA

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

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

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

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

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

OSBA Educational Conference
OCTOBER 31, 2015
Reserve the Date! for the Fall Conference in Plain City.

You

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

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

From Alex Zomchek – Miami Valley Region:
Greene County Beekeepers is preparing for the April 18th Spring Clinic at Russ Nature Reserve. This event is popular with both beekeepers and the general public.

From Mike Doseck—Top of Ohio:
Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association has had the election of its first officers on March 10. Mike Doseck was elected President. Ray Moeller was elected Vice-President. Carol Forsthoefel was elected Treasurer and serves as temporary Secretary. A sample Constitution from OSBA was read to the members present and it was suggested to e-mail it out for individual review, to be voted for at the April meeting. Dwight Wells was the guest speaker. The Beginning Beekeeping Class, sponsored by GGLBA, had over 17 attendees on March 28, 2015...a great start for a new club. Next month Michele Colopy from Pollinator Stewardship Council will be our guest speaker, with a meeting time of 7:00 PM.

From Joseph Kovaleski– Crossroads Region:
The Coshocton County Beekeepers Association started its year on February 17th with a club meeting to discuss present hive status and activities. Each club member recounted their activities and the results of those activities. Most members found their hives in good shape. Several were feeding fondant. All agreed that the next month will be critical to hive survival.

The club held its annual Beginner Beekeepers class on Saturday, February 21st. There were 33 registrants for class supported by 15 club volunteers. The weather conditions being upgraded to a Level 2 snow emergency mid-morning did not help matters, but even so, only five people from distances such as New Philadelphia and Alexandria were unable to attend. The class agenda was rearranged this year and broken into ten ½-hour segments, each segment taught by club members. Attendees seemed to appreciate the use of some relatively new beekeepers performing presentation duties.

The Saturday classroom will be followed up with a Saturday in March which focuses on hive building. The group will build a complete hive. It will include several different frame materials. The constructed hive will be used throughout the year for demonstrations and then will be the annual grand door prize at our final 2015 meeting in November.

The group will also practice package release and experience a live hive inspection on a Saturday in April. Coshocton beekeepers are off to great start in 2015!

Many beekeepers from Ohio and surrounding states were part of the 960 attendees at the Tri County Beekeepers workshop in Wooster on March 6th and 7th. There were many great classes with excellent presenters.

From Mike Soboleski—Maumee Valley Region:
The Maumee Valley Beekeepers had a successful new beekeeping class this winter with about 30 new eager students. We have several guest speakers lined up for the coming year with a field day in June at Myers Honey apiary with a potluck and fellowship to follow. Due to our overwhelming success we have outgrown our meeting place we have had since the club was formed. The new meeting location is the Wildwood Environmental Academy at 1628 Henthrone Drive in Maumee Ohio.

Also the local ABC news station came out to my apiary last week and shot a segment on bees with the coming spring. Here is the link: http://www.13abc.com/home/headlines/Warmer-weather-and--295982731.html#.VQDGWm7acGY.email They obtained Roger’s contact info from the OSBA website.

From Tracy Alarcon– Western Reserve Region:
The Medina County Beekeepers have wrapped up their beginner classes and welcome in all the newbees!!! Two full classes have swelled our membership.

Dr. Larry Connor is the April 20th featured speaker at 7 pm. Jim Thompson, May’s speaker, on "Preparing honey and honey products for the fair" – just in time for the County Fair Entry Deadlines. June meeting will be a field evening in the bee yard and plant exchange with bees and pollinator plants with Denise Ellsworth.

The club’s apiary will be hosting multiple field days this spring including removing bees from a dead tree (see photo), making splits from the over-wintered club hives and notching frames for a new queen. Please check our webpage at www.medinabeekeepers.com for dates and times. These field days are weather driven and will require protective clothing.

(Continued on page 21)
From Tom Rathbun—Erie Basin
The Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers invited OSBA VP Terry Lieberman-Smith as their guest speaker for the March meeting. They are organizing a Queen Rearing Class in June, taught by Dana Stahlman.

From Marishka Wile—Ohio Valley
The Highland County Beekeepers Association has enjoyed a longstanding and successful club under the presidency of Mr. Jim Higgins. The club was saddened to hear Mr. Higgins would not run again for president. He has left the club in excellent hands with newly elected Tom House. The club will continue to hold its open forum style meetings, and also looks forward to adding some guest speakers to the New Year’s agenda. This is an excellent club that enjoys all the benefits of a smaller membership. The Q & A type meetings of HCBA are especially helpful for new beekeepers searching for mentors in a more intimate environment.

The Brown County Beekeepers Association held its first meeting of 2015 on February 10th. The meeting was opened by our newly elected President Mike Pasquale with 50+ in attendance. A program on “Introduction to beekeeping” was presented for the people wanting to get started in beekeeping. There was also a program on “Beekeeping management—what to do and when to do it”. Our next meeting is March 10th. The March program will be “How to bait a swarm trap”. Our meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Western Brown High School at 7:00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. For more info www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org.

The Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers’ Association hosted the Honey Bee Expo on January 31st, at WV University, Parkersburg, WV. 316 guests, instructors, vendors, and volunteers joined together for a day dedicated to the honey bee. As always, a wide range of classes were offered, over four sessions, that appealed to all levels of beekeeping. Tentative date for the 2016 Expo is January 30, 2016. The Expo committee is already working on the speakers, vendors, and schedule.

Election of officers will be held in March. Clay Guthrie, of Dadant Beekeeping Supplies, is scheduled to join them in May. We invite area beekeepers to join us May 25th, 7:00pm, at the Washington County Career Center, SR 676, Marietta, OH. Clay will bring a variety of equipment, as well as supplies that have been pre-ordered, thus avoiding shipping charges. Dadant’s toll free number is; 888-922-3268. Just mention MOVBA on May 25th.

The MOVBA website is www.movba.org. So once again, thanks to all those who joined us at the Expo and hope to see you next year, as well as some new faces.
**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 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.

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.

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**Willis Aubra Williams** passed away February 11, 2015 in his Mansfield home surrounded by his family. He was 93.

He was born November 15, 1921 in Clarksburg, WV. To His family moved to the Mansfield area in 1938. Willis proudly served in the US Army during WWII.

Willis was a member of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church and Steam Corners United Methodist Church in Mansfield where he faithfully attended for over 50 years, taught Sunday School, and served as Superintendent. He was an honorary member of the Bee Keepers of Richland and Morrow Counties and was affectionately known as Mr. Bee Man. He truly enjoyed talking about bees at schools, nursing homes, Richland and Morrow County Fairs, and Malabar Heritage Days.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 50 years, Shirley (Huvler) Williams of Mansfield; five daughters, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Willis was loved by family and friends.

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**Buckeye Queen Producers**

Ohio has been busy with raising local queens for their state group called the Buckeye Queen Producers. All of the breeders/producers are concerned with the lack of genetics and good temperament of the queens that have been available to the beekeeper. Visit www.ohioqueens.org or members below for your Ohio replacement queen needs.
Varroa

In today’s beekeeping world Varroa has become the top dog. You either control Varroa or you perish! By control, I don’t mean that you treat as a precaution once the crop has been removed or prior to winter shutdown. If you practice that type of minimal Varroa control, you’ll be in the market to purchase replacement packages or nucs the following spring, guaranteed!

If you keep bees for honey production your goal is to build populous colonies in order to maximize their production potential. To achieve that goal you have to maintain the integrity of the broodnest. In other words you do everything possible to prevent swarming or untimely superscedure. And you add supers in a timely manner to alleviate broodnest congestion. When you practice this type of beekeeping you are also creating the ideal Varroa reproductive environment! And believe me; Varroa will take advantage or your generosity.

In order to keep Varroa in check, it’s necessary to maintain a constant vigilance. Starting in early spring, sample to determine the colony or yard mite loads. There are a variety of sampling techniques at your disposal. I would recommend an alcohol wash. This sampling technique is quick, accurate, and consistent. Best of all, it immediately allows you to determine whether or not treatment is necessary. Start by selecting a brood comb that contains some older open brood, brood within 24 hrs of being capped. This will provide the highest possible ratio of mites to adult bees. Check carefully to make sure that the queen isn’t on the selected frame. Hold the frame by an end bar and shake a portion of the bees into the collection container. A common 8 by 10 inch Rubbermaid dishwashing tub works exceedingly well. Once the bees have been shaken into the collection container, check again for the queen. Then tap the bees to one corner of the container and scoop up the desired number of bees. (A level ¼ cup equals approx 150 bees, 1/3 cup 200 bees, and ½ cup 300 bees) I prefer the 150 bee sample size; with the larger samples the additional bees act as a filter to inhibit mite shake-out. Whichever size you choose, dump the sample into a wide mouth pint Mason jar and install the outer ring fitted with an 8 mesh per inch screen. Tap the bees to the bottom of the jar and pour in enough 70% Isopropyl to cover the sample, and then install the solid center cover. Alcohol doesn’t immediately kill Varroa mites, so let the sample to sit for a minute or so before shaking. This will allow the mites’ time to extricate themselves from under the bee’s abdominal segments. When ready, shake the jar vigorously for 15 to 20 seconds. Now reverse the procedure and remove the center cover and replace the screened lid. For easy visibility I prefer to shake the sample into a Cool Whip container, but any light color container will work. Hold, or place the container on a solid level surface. Then with a single motion, invert and vigorously shake the sample jar up and down five or six times. The idea is to use the alcohol to assist in washing the mites out of the sample jar. Once the shake is complete, count the mites collected in the bottom of the container. Take care to count any mites adhering to the center cover, and those that may be lodged between the screen and outer ring. In order to keep the associated virus issues in check, it’s imperative that the mite counts remain low throughout the season. Currently the recommended treatment thresholds range from 2 to 3 mites per hundred bees sampled. Personally I would err on the side of caution and use the lower number. Translated, that means the treatment threshold for a 150 bee alcohol wash is 3 mites.

There are a variety of different mite treatments ranging from hard synthetics to softer organic products. I favor two of the softer organics, specifically Apiguard and (MAQS) Mite Away Quick Strips. Both of these products are relatively easy to use, and both are effective mite control agents. Best of all, each of these products allows you to adjust the dosage based on colony size and the existing mite load.

Mite Away Quick Strips are my preferred form of mite control for full or medium strength colonies. There are two treatment options. The full treatment consists of two strips per colony containing six or more frames of bees. Under normal conditions this treatment should kill between 93 and 95 % of the mites, including those under the brood cappings. However, under certain conditions two strips can cause varying degrees of brood damage, especially on smaller colonies. Consequently I’ve switched to the alternate half treatment, or one strip per colony of the same size. This treatment is somewhat less effective, probably eliminating somewhere between 50 to 60% of the mites. To offset the reduced efficacy I treat every three of four weeks depending on the existing mite load. Regardless of treatment size, follow label instructions for handling requirements and temperature tolerances.

Apiguard is a thymol gel marketed in a 50 gram peel off tray for individual colony treatment, or in a 6.6 lb. bucket for multiple colony treatment. The recommended dosage is 50 grams per colony, repeated at two or three week intervals. As with Mite Away, the full strength dose can cause brood loss under certain conditions. However a 25 gram half dose appears to be nearly as effective, with minimal brood loss. Treatment application can be achieved a couple of different ways. For those with only a few colonies simply divide the contents of a 50 gram (Continued on page 24)
Continued from page 21

The Guernsey Noble Beekeepers presented 3 sessions to 20 new beekeepers with the 3rd session at Don Crock’s apiary. Beekeeping can be intimidating to the beginner and assistance from other club members play a vital role in the successes of the beginner beekeeper. Don believes that the mentoring program will not only assist the beekeeper but help in the growth of the club.

The Guernsey Noble Beekeepers club meets at 6:30 pm on the first Monday of each month at the Mid East Career Center, Buffalo Campus. In May the club will meet at Don Crock’s apiary where he will provide a demonstration of a hive split.

Varroa (Continued from page 23)

tray in half. Use a hive tool or small spatula to remove and place each portion on a 2 inch square piece of waxed paper (dry wax paper works best). Don’t spread the gel, leave it in a clump and center the treatment on the top bars between brood boxes. If you’re treating a nuc or a single hive body colony, use a spacer or deep rimmed inner cover to provide the necessary accommodation space. For multiple colony treatment remove 25 gram dose from the bucket, (weigh or estimate the volume) and apply in the manner described above. I prefer this product for nucs and small colonies not quite strong enough to tolerate MAQS.
Dear OSBA members,

We received funding from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) supporting a public private partnership to create habitat for honey bees and native pollinators. Our project, "Beekeepers Collaborating to Create Pollinator Habitat" involves working with three corporate partners to develop pollinator forage on former grassy lawns. This transformation of a "grassy desert" into a diverse food source for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators is important to support the health of pollinators who make one third of our food supply possible.

Corporate land partners working with local beekeepers will create 33.75 acres of pollinator habitat on their land in northeast and southwest Ohio. Customers and employees will be educated about the value of pollinators, their habitat, and the ease of creating pollinator habitat in their own yards. This project connects local corporations, beekeepers, and 4-H students to help address the need for pollinator habitat throughout our communities.

Sharing the process and transferability of this project with other community groups, leaders, and individuals is integral to our work.

We would be pleased to have the opportunity to talk with your group about our collaborative project. Call or email us today to schedule a free presentation to your group.

Contact one of our speakers about this project:

Terry Lieberman-Smith, Vice-President of Ohio State Beekeeping Assn.
Email: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com
Phone: 937-272-6549

Peggy Garnes, President of Medina County Beekeepers Assn.
Email: peggy@beeculture.com
Phone: 330-723-6265

Michele Colopy, Program Director of Pollinator Stewardship Council
Email: progdirector@pollinatorstewardship.org
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Sincerely,

Michele Colopy
Program Director
Honey Bee Success and Ohio’s Landscape

Doug Sponsler, The Ohio State University

Human land use exerts a profound influence on the characteristics of landscapes, and this principle is well-illustrated here in Ohio (Figure 1). Where agriculture predominates, the landscape is a patchwork of cultivated fields (brown), mainly corn/soybean rotations. Where urban land use takes precedence (pink-to-red gradient), the landscape is a fine mesh of paved surfaces, built structures, small patches of vegetation. In the hilly Appalachian Plateau of southern and eastern Ohio, subject to only minimal agriculture and urban development, the landscape is dominated by forest (green).

What do these stark differences in landscape composition mean for foraging honey bees that depend on the land for food? Are cities, as some suggest, a better home for bees than farmland (Wilson-Rich, 2012)? What about more natural landscapes, like forests?

Prompted by questions like these, my advisor, Dr. Reed Johnson, and I enlisted volunteer beekeepers from around the state to participate in a survey. Each participant was asked to report the geographical location of one hive that had recently been started from package bees. Using this information, we plotted the locations of the hives over a land cover map of Ohio (Fry et al, 2011) and measured the composition of the landscape surrounding each hive. In the fall, participants inspected their colonies and reported the amount of honey and pollen they had stored, the amount of wax they had drawn, and the approximate population of adults and brood. We then analyzed the data to look for correlations between landscape variables and colony success variables that might shed light on how landscape influences colony success.

In brief, we found two interesting relationships between landscape and colony success. First, both food accumulation and wax production were significantly related to the amount of cropland and forest surrounding the hive. Perhaps counterintuitively, it was the cropland hives that outperformed the forest hives (Figure 2). The net effect of agricultural land use appears to be positive when the alternative is forest. We were also interested, though, in specifically comparing the success of urban hives to that of cropland hives. To make this comparison, we looked only at our hives that were surrounded primarily by urban and/or agricultural land use. Among these hives, we found a negative relationship between urban land cover and colony food accumulation, casting doubt on the popular notion that urban areas “rescue” honey bees from the allegedly poor floral diversity and high pesticide prevalence of cropland (Figure 3).

So, it seems that cropland is, in general, the best place to keep bees in Ohio. But isn’t natural vegetation better for

Figure 1: Land cover of Ohio

Figure 2: Colony food accumulation (A) and wax production (B) in relation to landscape composition
(From Sponsler and Johnson, 2015)

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bees than monoculture crops? What about the high floral diversity of urban gardens? What’s going on here?

Here’s our interpretation. Whether we like it or not, honey bees don’t necessarily share our aesthetic value for biological diversity and intact natural floral communities. What honey bees want is food, and lots of it. And this is where the positive relationship between honey bee success and cropland begins to make sense. In between and around all those corn and soybean fields are strips and patches of open land that are densely populated with dandelions in early-mid spring and clover in late spring and summer. Then, from late summer until first frost, fallow fields and conservation strips burst with fall asters and goldenrod. None of these valuable bee forage plants can thrive under the shade of a forest canopy or the zealous weed control of a residential neighborhood.

 Practically speaking, what does this mean for Ohio beekeepers and land managers? Well, the good news is that agronomy and beekeeping are not necessarily opposed to one another. The open areas maintained by agricultural land use foster the growth of rich honey bee foraging patches, and beekeepers and growers should work together to maximize the floral richness of field margins and conservation set-asides. Beekeepers in forested or urban areas may tend to experience weaker nectar flows, but it is important to note that these landscape are certainly not preclusive to beekeeping. Notice the huge amount of scatter in figures 1 and 2: we found successful (and unsuccessful) hives in all types of landscapes. The task of the beekeeper, regardless of landscape context, is to be familiar with local flora, keep records of nectar flow patterns, and manage colonies accordingly.

To get the full story, we encourage you to read our study that was recently published in the journal PeerJ (Sponsler and Johnson, 2015), freely available here: https://peerj.com/articles/838/.

References
Editor’s Corner

I hate to admit it, but I have new smoker envy. There I said it. Each year about this time Bill Starrett and I sort out a huge order of beekeeping equipment that we have compiled for our Beekeeping 101 students. We spend a whole day sorting frames and boxes and veils and bright shiny new smokers. There’s nothing like counting out over 860 frames and weighing nails so that our students save lots of money, don’t have “catalog overwhelmitis”, and have a good beekeeping experience.

I must say that every time I see a line up of brand new shiny smokers I get a little jealous. Wouldn’t it be nice to have one of those never-been-used, bright shiny smokers. My husband says that I’m attracted to bright shiny things, and these smokers are no exception.

My smoker has been my trusty companion for the past 11 years. It has shared with me some great moments in beekeeping and some less than perfect times. My smoker is a little weathered, not completely round anymore, and the bellows have more than one pinhole. Unlike a hive tool, I’ve never lost it, or given it away to a beekeeper who was without. As much as I would like a new smoker, I’m not one to be fickle to a true companion. It was time to hack my smoker.

First step, I asked my husband to take his propane torch to its rather tar-like interior. Within a few minutes any traces of a year’s worth of apiary visits was reduced to a small pile of ash.

Then, I got my metal scrubber out and had at it. The results are, well, far from perfect and new, but my smoker does look a whole lot better. Nothing like a bit of bright yellow duct tape to fix a bellow hole and complete the transformation.

She’s still not quite round, and there are traces of past scars of use, but she does look a heck of a lot better than she used to. There still some shine left in my old smoker.

I still do have a twinge of jealousy at that line up of new bee smokers that our students will pickup later this week.

Have a bountiful beekeeping season, and I’ll see you in the beeyard!

No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

Curry-Up Honey Chicken

1/2 stick butter
1/4 c. honey
1/4 c. mustard
1T. curry powder
1/4 t. dried chipotle powder
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

Preheat oven to 350. In an 8x8 baking pan combine the butter, honey, mustard, curry powder and chipotle powder.

Place in the warming oven for few minutes until butter melts.

Remove from oven, stir to blend.

Add chicken and coat thoroughly with sauce. Bake for about 45 minutes, basting every 10 minutes.

When completely cooked, remove from oven and serve with the sauce poured over the chicken.

Terry Lieberman-Smith
Expanding Pollinator Opportunities with Grants

The Pollinator Stewardship Council and Ohio State Beekeepers worked together to encourage local groups to apply for the GRO1000 grant funds. Four groups developed projects and sought funding for pollinator habitat: three groups in Ohio and one in Iowa. All four groups received funding toward their pollinator habitat projects. The Pollinator Stewardship Council worked directly on two of the project grants, with Bikes, Bees, and Butterflies, and Squire Valleevue Farm.

Terry Lieberman-Smith, Vice President of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association encouraged a project with Miami Valley Beekeepers and Bruckner Nature Center; and Pollinator Stewardship Council directed the Madison County Foundation for Environmental Education toward this funding resource.

The GRO1000 grassroots program received an overwhelming response for funding. More than 100 organizations received full or partial project funding. The Scott's Miracle-Gro GRO1000 grassroots funding is a program to help local communities with garden and green space development. The pollinator habitat projects are part of the Scott’s Miracle-Gro Company’s GRO1000 Initiative, designed to create 1000 gardens and green spaces throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe by 2018, the Company’s 150th anniversary.

Brukner Nature Center is joining forces with the Miami Valley Beekeepers Association and Wild Gardens Club to create and maintain a Native Pollinator Demonstration Garden that will feature native plants used by bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators as food or shelter. Plants will be selected to provide important year-round forage for bees and other pollinators and for their use as landscape plants for homeowners. The garden will be located near the MVBA’s beekeeper training apiary and will include bird feeders, nest boxes, and water sources as well as rocks for kids to climb and benches for visitors to sit and enjoy the garden. “Brukner Nature Center has been the host location for MVBA for many years, and OSBA and MVBA are pleased to be able to partner up on this grant to help provide more pollinator planting and increase general public awareness of quality bee forage.” stated Lieberman-Smith.

The Pollinator Stewardship Council received a GRO1000 grassroots grant award toward creating pollinator plantings near crops on the working, educational farm in northeast Ohio, Squire Valleevue Farm. The project will provide for pollinator plantings in the food growing areas. These pollinator habitat strips at the Valleevue Farm will demonstrate that agriculture and pollinators can co-exist, increasing crop yields, and supplying pollinators with diverse food sources. According to Michele Colopy, Program Director of the Pollinator Stewardship Council, “We were grateful to receive the grant support for our collaborative pollinator habitat project. These pollinator strips will educate farmers/gardeners as to the value of pollinators to agriculture, and the ease of creating a positive coexistence. Most importantly, this habitat will provide diverse forage for native pollinators at this educational, working farm.” The grant partners will create a “guide” to the plants and the pollinators in the pollinator habitat, posting it on the Farm website complimenting their other guides of plants, mammals, invertebrates, etc. that reside on the Farm (for an example go to http://students.case.edu/farm/education/flora.html).

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture reports Americans throw away more than 11 billion pounds of produce each year. Despite that surplus, 4.1% of U.S. households experience hunger, 2.9 million of whom are children. The Pollinator Stewardship Council project with Squire Valleevue Farm brings together local food production, with the education of K-12 students who visit the farm, and will be an example of the co-existence of pollinators and crops.

To learn more about this project, to make a contribution to fully fund the project, or for information about the other projects facilitated by Pollinator Stewardship Council and the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, email progdirector@pollinatorstewardship.org or osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com.
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 1-800-347-8272 or visit www.centralapiary.com.
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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.
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

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 any corrections, letters, comments, photographs, story suggestions, interviews, and additional requests to:

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