Ohio State Beekeepers Association in collaboration with Pollinator Stewardship Council has developed a celebration of Ohio Pollinators as part of National Pollinator Week June 19-26, 2016. Sponsored by an Ohio company, Scott’s Miracle GRO, and featuring event partners: Cleveland Botanical Garden, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden, and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, it promises to be a week of celebration, education, and fun about honey bees and native pollinators.

With Ohio being the historic home of the “father of modern beekeeping,” A.I. Root; and Bee Culture magazine; as well as “the father of American beekeeping,” Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth’s Cottage listed as a National Historic Landmark in Oxford, Ohio it is fitting that Ohio be at the forefront of celebrating pollinators. Pollinator Stewardship Council is coordinating this Ohio Pollinator Celebration, working with Ohio State Beekeepers Association to increase awareness of the honey bee health crisis, improve the health of Ohio honey bees and native pollinators, and celebrate Ohio partners working together for Ohio agriculture, Ohio parks and forests, and Ohio backyard gardens.

The national value of pollination to agriculture is nearly $30 Billion. According to Researcher, Krishna Ramanujan in the 2010 Cornell Chronicle Honey bees provide $12.4 billion through pollination services to pollinator dependent crops, and $6.8 billion of crop value to indirectly dependent crops. Pollination services are also contributed to by our native pollinators who provide $4 billion worth of pollination services to dependent crops, and $5.9 billion in value to indirectly dependent crops nationally.

Pollination plays a vital role in the health of Ohio’s forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities.

The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, published in May 2015 (www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/05/19/announcing-new-steps-promote-pollinator-health) promotes conservation stewardship to protect and support pollinators and their habitats on working lands, wild lands, utility rights-of-way, public and private lands.

Visit the website or Facebook pages of any of the partners across the next few months for Ohio Pollinator Week activities (Continued on page 11).
IRS Approves OSBA Affiliate Program

OSBA has received approval from the IRS regarding the newly created OSBA Affiliate Program. This program will offer a wide variety of benefits to local beekeeping associations.

The initial cost to file the government paperwork was not insignificant. Your OSBA Board appropriated funding because OSBA believes in investing in the future growth of local Ohio beekeeper associations. Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association participated as our beta group.

We developed the OSBA Affiliate Program to help local associations reduce overhead costs so that your local club funds can be spent on beekeeper education and outreach. Our new program will offer:

- local association liability insurance at a reduced rate
- director and officer insurance at a reduced rate
- non-profit status under the OSBA 501c3 umbrella
- website hosting

Not only will your association save money, but donors to associations can receive a charitable deduction for donations.

Additional benefits are already being explored for the future. Now that we have received approval, we are working on the user-friendly paperwork that local associations can use to apply to become an affiliate member of OSBA. To help expedite the process, each association will be assigned an OSBA Officer to help guide the group through the paperwork.

Because we are adding associations under our 501c3 umbrella, associations will still have to follow the applicable bee club guidelines. Watch for more details in the next newsletter, and in electronic communications with local association leaders.
OSBA Fall Conference—Another Exciting and Educational Event

Mark your calendars, set your smart phone’s meeting reminder for the upcoming OSBA Fall Conference in Plain City, OH on Saturday, November 5.

Our line-up includes Dr. Jamie Ellis, author/beekeeper Stephen Rapasky, OSU extension educator Christie Welch, along with other guests.

Your OSBA conferences are interactive educational events filled with honey judging, auction tables, vendors, and always a few fun surprises. This year’s end of beekeeping season event will get you ready for a successful 2017 beekeeping year.

OSBA Donates Research Funds to OSU to Study Effect of Emamectin Benzoate on Honey Bees

OSBA has donated research funds to Dr. Reed Johnson at OSU to study the effects of a specific insecticide used on trees to control the emerald ash borer. There has been concern among beekeepers that systemic insecticides may be present in the pollen shed by ash trees in the spring. However, relatively little work has gone into determining the concentration of insecticides in treated ash trees as the conventional wisdom has been that honey bees do not collect much ash pollen.

Recent work at the Ohio State University Bee Lab has conclusively demonstrated that honey bees in Ohio may collect as much as 25% of their pollen from ash trees during the ash bloom in late April and early May. If substantial amounts of systemic insecticides are present in ash pollen there is a real potential for honey bee colonies kept in urban environments to suffer toxic effects at this time just as new packages are being established and overwintered colonies are beginning to rapidly expand.

May we suggest email delivery of your next newsletter? The newsletter you are reading cost $1.80 to print and mail. Sign up for the e-zine and:

- **Bee “green”**
- Receive the e-zine faster than the snail mail version
- The e-zine is in full color version
- The e-zine has hyperlinks to our vendors webpages
- Better use of your membership dues

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

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.

- Jay Begg
- Keith M Burtt
- Sherrie Bower
- James Cunagin
- Jeff Gabric
- Melissa & Tim Hirn
- Vicki Lamson
- Adam R. Webber

Tim Arheit, OSBA President, left, and Terry Lieberman-Smith, OSBA VP, right, present Dr. Reed Johnson with funding.
Now Available - The Save The Honey Bee License Plate

In 2015, The Save the Honey Bee License plate rolled off the assembly line and onto the cars of enthusiastic beekeepers and people who are interested in supporting honey bees. 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?

OSBA sent out over 1300 Welcome Packets to students taking Beginning Beekeeping classes through local associations. That’s a 38% increase over the number OSBA sent out in 2015. The students received a pocket notepad, pen, and educational materials, and a complimentary membership to OSBA. For one full year, these new-bees will receive electronic communications (including the newsletter) from OSBA, along with member discounts.

If you are an instructor of a class and have not yet sent in your paperwork with the students’ information, please contact OSBA Secretary, Annette Birt Clark at Secretary@OhioStateBeekeepers.org or PO Box 110952 Cleveland, OH 44111-9998.
Meet the OSBA 4-H Partnership Program Winners

OSBA is pleased to announce the five winners of the OSBA 4-H Partnership Program. These 4-H students will receive enough equipment for two hives from OSBA, a value of $400 per student.

- Brayde Monahan - Maumee Valley
- Erica Shafer - Columbiana-Mahoning
- Gabrielle Adams - Geauga County
- Madalyn Sponsler - Knox County
- Tyler Bierer - Ashtabula County

OSBA Direction Joseph Kovaleski presents Erica Shafer with some of her equipment at the Columbiana-Mahoning Beekeepers meeting. Pictured behind Erica are Bruce Zimmer, President, Heidi Schmidbauer, Secretary, Sandra Hays, Treasurer, and Tom Pittman, Vice-President.

OSBA Representative Jeff Gabric presents Madalyn Sponsler with her hive equipment.

OSBA Representative Mike Soboleski presents Maumee Valley Beekeepers OSBA 4-H Partnership winner, Brayde Monahan with beekeeping equipment.

Left to Right:
OSBA Director Richard Manley, Dave Patterson – Mentor, Tyler Bierer
Pretreat Your Bee Packages with Oxalic Acid!

Our Oxalic Acid Kit Has Everything You Need to Treat Your Hives

- 35 Grams Oxalic Acid
- Syringe
- Safety Goggles & Gloves

Oxalic Acid is one of the most common treatment methods used in Europe and Canada due to its efficacy and low risk of hive contamination.

It has been registered and approved for use in Ohio!

Most effective treatment time is generally when colonies are likely to be broodless. The best practice is to treat with Oxalic Acid in autumn or on a new package of bees.

If you are able to treat a package of bees before installation, the mite population growth will be heavily affected and may improve colony health.

The effectiveness of Oxalic Acid treatments used in solution can be in excess of 95%.

This is the most cost efficient treatment on the market. Order Your Kit Today!

The Varrocleaner Vaporizer

One 35 Gram pack of Oxalic Acid will treat up to 20 colonies with the drizzle method and 35 with a vaporizer

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm

Call: 1-800-BEESWAX or Visit: www.BushyMountainBeeFarm.com
Meet the New Members of the OSBA Team

OSBA Representative Chris Dresel—Ohio Valley

My name is Chris Dresel, and I am the newly appointed Regional Representative for the OSBA Ohio Valley Region. I was born and raised in southern Ohio; in/around the Cincinnati area. My summers were spent in the wilds (at that time) of rural Brown County. Following my primary education, I enlisted in to the US Air Force where I spent 21+ years in service to our country. Following retirement, my family and I moved back to southern Ohio settling on a small hobby farm in Brown County. We got busy planting dozens of various fruit trees, shrubs, and vines and tended a vegetable garden for a few years without a notable positive harvest. A visiting neighbor (and beekeeper) mentioned that there are no bees present and my less-than-optimal harvests could be a result. Based on her recommendations four years ago, I started exploring the world of beekeeping. Books, magazines, online videos, internet research and bee schools seem to occupy most of my free time. Since beginning with this hobby, I have relished the delights and wonderment that is beekeeping; quickly realizing it has become more than just a hobby. I have 8 colonies that have made it through this moderate winter, and hope to expand to possibly 15 by year’s end.

I am currently active in my local beekeeping club, The Brown County Beekeepers Association, serving as President for 2016. It is truly an honor to lead such a great group of people. I feel our club does a spectacular job recruiting prospective beekeepers and generously strives to educate both novice and experienced beekeepers with monthly presentations by experienced figures in our regional beekeeping world and through collaboration of local knowledge, tips, tools, and techniques within our general membership. I hope to serve both my Region and State organizations throughout the year as one of your Regional Representatives.

OSBA Director Larry Potter—Heart of Ohio

I was introduced to beekeeping as a child at his grandfather's farm, but only started actively beekeeping a short time ago after reading every beekeeping book I could get my hands on at the Westerville Public Library. The next spring I joined the inaugural class of the Beekeeping Apprenticeship Program at Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware, OH under the mentorship of Dave Noble. As my interest and commitment to beekeeping grew, I have not only become a Lifetime Member of both the OSBA and East Central Ohio Beekeepers, but also started sporting the new "The Save The Honey Bee License Plate" on all my family vehicles. I am now only a few hours shy of becoming an OSBA Certified Journeyman Beekeeper. Currently, my family of seven are attempting to grow a fledgling bee-centered business called "Saving Backyard Bees" by putting hives in the backyards of suburban homes and business throughout Westerville and Genoa Township.

OSBA Representative Jeff Gabric—Heart of Ohio

My father kept bees from the 1930’s to the 1980’s. I started keeping bees in 2010. My goals are selling bees and honey, and throughout the year run 20 to 40 colonies. The fun part is finding ways to develop as many increase colonies possible every year. I believe that to be successful in beekeeping: “Know the Rules and Learn the Art”. I am always learning.

I am President of Knox County Beekeepers, a local bee association, which was formed in 2012.
Fair Pavilion Brings Together Curious Public, Beekeepers

David Crawford

Before the season’s first snow fell to the ground, plans already were taking shape for the beekeeping pavilion at the Ohio State Fair this summer (July 31 – Aug. 7). Sponsored by OSBA, the pavilion attracts more than 1,000 visitors each day to day-long demonstrations and exhibits related to beekeeping and OSBA’s efforts to “Save the Honey Bee.”

“Now in its fifth year, the pavilion provides educational opportunities to visitors and in many cases directs them to local clubs in their area for memberships or to take a beginners class,” said Nina Bagley, an OSBA member and pavilion manager.

“We’re discovering that most people who visit the pavilion already have some personal interest or curiosity about beekeeping,” said Bagley. “They come in, talk to the volunteers or listen to a presentation and the next thing you know they are really excited and ready to become beekeepers, plant a pollinator garden or go out and buy the OSBA license plates, just so they can play some role in saving the honey bee.”

Bagley credits a corps of enthusiastic OSBA volunteers with the success of the growing pavilion. More than 60 volunteers are needed during the course of the pavilion’s eight-day run to stage demonstrations, staff exhibits and answer thousands of questions.

“OSBA invests substantial funding in the pavilion and the accompanying honey show, but as an organization, we have the best volunteers. Without them we wouldn’t have this highly visible stage inside one of the nation’s premier state fairs,” she said. “You’re a devoted volunteer when you can be “on’ for 10 straight hours talking to visitors at every age level about honey bees and beekeeping.”

Volunteers often enlist to help at their local club and clubs are assigned to host one day in the pavilion. About 5-6 volunteers are needed each day to handle the volume of visitors. “By the time OSBA members read this, the club and volunteer schedule for 2016 will be nearly complete. As soon as this fair is over, the planning process for 2017 begins,” she added.

Among the events in the 2016 pavilion will be an added emphasis on live hive presentations and tours of a model beeyard by the newly crowned royalty from the American Beekeeping Federation. Last year, the Federation’s Honey Princess conducted several programs and recruited many young people into beekeeping.

Helping Bagley on the OSBA Fair Committee are Tina Bobek, David Crawford, Zale Maxwell, Dwight Wells and Marishka Wile. To lend a hand on the committee, please contact Nina at ninabagley@me.com. Your help and expertise would be very much welcomed and appreciated!

OSBA Certified Master Beekeeper Program Update

Mike Soboleski

Let me start off by thanking everyone who responded to our email asking about your status in the program. It was a huge success, and Dick has made great progress in cleaning up the data base.

Since reigniting the program, many of you have thanked the committee for their efforts in keeping the program running. We appreciate your words of encouragement. As you all know, we are just a group of volunteers trying our best. I would ask for your help in assisting us in keeping the program running. We need as many of you as possible to join us on Facebook and add comments. Not just a “Hi” or “Great Job”, but thoughts or ideas that will make the group think and respond. We want this page to be a vibrant exchange of information to and for beekeepers at all levels in the program.

The Facebook page along with this newsletter are our two basic means of communication. Or, you can always email the master beekeeping program at masterbeekeepers@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Thanks again and until we cluster...
OSBA Sponsored Honey Contest at the Ohio State Fair

Now is the time to start planning your entries for the Ohio State Fair Honey Contest. Entry categories run the gamut from cakes baked with honey, to cakes (chunks) of wax, even the beginner beekeeper can show off products of the hive. Get those BBQ’s fired up and start formulating your Honey BBQ winner entry! This year we will be awarding $780 worth of prize money.

This year’s location is in Cardinal Hall.

Here are some important facts:
Entry Deadline: June 20th
Online Entry Only: [http://oharts.fairmanager.com/](http://oharts.fairmanager.com/)
Entry fee for Creative Arts is $10 plus $1 per class entry
Entry Information will be mailed to you in July.

Rules:
✓ Honey must be the only source of sweetening.
✓ Full cakes, pies and bread loaves are required.
✓ Baking entries (brownies, cookies) are to be delivered on a disposable plate inside a locked or zipped plastic bag.
✓ Bee/Honey Gift Item (class 13) must be in basket or other container. These entries should weigh no more than 10 lbs. with
✓ 70% of the products made by the contestant.
✓ Participants should provide three (3) 1 lb. jars for honey entries (classes 7-11). Entries should be in glass honey jars;
✓ Queenline or Gamber classic jars are the standard.
✓ Classes 1-5 must include local honey and its source listed in the recipe.

**CLASS:** Honey

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<tr>
<td>1. Breads (full loaf)</td>
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<td>2. Brownies (6-8 pcs.)</td>
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<td>3. Pies (full pie)</td>
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<td>4. Cakes (full cakes; unfrosted)</td>
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<td>5. Cookies (6-8; unfrosted)</td>
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Best of Show (classes 1-5) ......................... Rosette

**CLASS:** Honey, Other

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<tr>
<td>11. Honey Frames (2 per entry, any size bee proof case)</td>
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<td>12. Bee/Honey Gift Item (10 lb limit, 70% products of the contestant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Beeswax Chunk (single piece, minimum of 1-lb)</td>
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Best of Show (classes 11-13) ......................... Rosette

Honey Bee Photography has moved to our Creative Arts Division #4309, Photography, Classes 4 and 11.

Enter your Honey BBQ Sauce in our Culinary Arts Division #3305, Sauces, Class 5.

For a complete listing of information, rules, and deadlines, visit: [http://ohiostatefair.com/culinary/](http://ohiostatefair.com/culinary/)
Pollinator Stewardship Council-Medina County Beekeepers-OSBA OEEF Grant

Thanks to the OEEF grant coordinated by Pollinator Stewardship Council, Medina County Beekeepers Association, and OSBA, this year over 30 acres of pollinator friendly habitat will be providing healthy forage for honey bees and other pollinators in Ohio. The grant required the sponsoring associations to provide over two dozen presentations concerning the Ohio Environmental Education Fund habitat grant. Attendees learned about this grant funded projects, and how they too can plant for pollinators. Michele Colopy, Peggy Garnes, and Terry Lieberman-Smith gave these presentations to community groups, bee clubs, 4-H groups and libraries.

Rusty Strader displays the sign for the property at CEMEX

OSBA Vice President Terry Lieberman-Smith presents the signage to for the Dayton VA Property to Bryan Boyd

Seeds for honeybee habitat
Club Banners Needed for OSBA Fair Pavilion

Club banners are a nice colorful addition to the OSBA pavilion and a source of pride for visitors looking for clubs representing their area of the state. If you would like for your banner to fly inside the pavilion, please mail it to David Crawford, 431 N. Court St., Circleville, Ohio 43113, prior to July 31. Please include a return address. OSBA will pay the postage to have the banners returned via U.S. Mail the week of Aug. 7.

Pollinator Week (Continued from page 1)

at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, June 19; the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden, June 25; and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden June 26.


Pollinator Stewardship Council http://pollinatorstewardship.org/

You Can Have It All (Almost)

More and more beekeeper’s seasonal ambitions are being pushed by hive losses. As this season quickly unfolds there is a growing consensus to already forestall a honey crop in lieu of making splits to recover from winter losses.

Making splits from strong, over wintered colonies certainly replaces losses, but at a cost. Splits from survivor hives can and should be part of your seasonal management. The key word here is seasonal. Making a spring split is akin to swarming. And swarming is Latin for “There goes my honey crop!” I propose you can have it all (almost). You can increase your return on your beekeeping investment (ROBI) by maximizing both your honey and bee crops.

Rather than spring splits wait for mid-summer. With local honey in short supply and honey prices commanding a premium price build your colony strengths to coincide with the peak late spring/early summer nectar flows to maximize honey crops.

After the main summer nectar flows cease; extract your honey; and then make your splits. Colony strengths are high at this time and you might find yourself in a position to make several splits from the stronger colonies. You get your big honey crop and your replacements and/or expansion colonies. Is there a catch? Not really, but several things have to happen to make this work. Not splitting your “boomer” colonies can encourage swarming. Use tried and true hive manipulations to suppress this natural reproduction urge. Suggestions include swapping brood chambers, frame culling with foundations, and over supering, requeening, and queen cell culling.

You cannot guarantee your colonies will not swarm but if you practice some or all of the above practices you should be able to significantly reduce swarming. With swarming suppressed and your honey crop harvested you can turn your attention to bee production. Given your bee replacement needs and the size and quality of your selected colonies you can make 1-2-3+ splits per. Summer nucs for sale!

So, with a little extra work you can produce bigger honey AND a bee crops. Why stop there? Rather than having replacement queens at the ready when you make your splits; let them go queenless for 14 days. When the split (s) are initially made you can let the splits either naturally requeen themselves or have queens ordered for after the 14 day break.

This 14 days reprieve breaks the brood cycle allowing for all the current brood; but more importantly - mites “trapped” in capped cells, to emerge. With the splits queenless this would be a great time to monitor for mite loads and treat with a miticide if levels warrant such. You might even consider “banking” the original hive’s queen for this same period if monitoring indicates mite treatment is necessary.

(Continued on page 33)
OSBA Seeds - Swarm - Podcasts:

Support for All Aspects of Beekeeping

Sow the Seeds
The OSBA Pollinator Oasis Blend is a popular selling seed mix from Ohio Prairie Nursery. OPN has created this blend specifically for Ohio urban/suburban gardens. The demand has taken off, and now the blend is available in a variety of sizes. It’s not too late to have an oasis in your own yard….visit www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/ohio-pollinator-oasis-seed-packet/ for more details.

Have You Caught A Glimpse of Our New Swarm List Page?
To better serve both the general public and add value to your OSBA membership, we have revamped the Swarm List page. Webmaster Tim Arheit has redesigned the page to include an easy to use, interactive Ohio map. When panicked homeowners go the website to look for a bee-hero to remove a swarm, they can click on their county and it will list all OSBA members who are willing to come and rescue the bees. The listing will also show OSBA members in adjacent counties who are available. Our Swarm Removal page on the OSBA website is a well-used resource during swarm season. If you would like your services posted, please call or email Tim Arheit at: 567.703.6722 or webmaster@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Lend Us an Ear – Get Some Great Information
Listen to OSBA Podcast Central on your smartphone, tablet or computer. Our conversations with beekeepers will provide you with insights and tips on all aspects of beekeeping. Look for a new podcast in April, with John Grafton. As many of you know, John is a beekeeper-of-all-trades, and he shares some of his experiences with you in the soon to be posted podcast.

Why is the Ohio State Fair Honey Show Important to Me?

David Crawford

After an absence of many years, the honey show made a return to the Ohio State Fair five years ago. OSBA felt it was important to have honey and beekeeping represented at one of the nation’s largest state fairs and your association pays the sponsorship fee to make the show possible.

At a time when mites, pesticides and changing agricultural practices threaten honey bee survival and grab headlines, beekeepers need to seize every opportunity to ensure visitors to the state fair -- including legislators and other decision-makers who file past the display -- that beekeeping remains an important and viable economic stimulus in Ohio.

Bare shelves in a honey display tell the public a different and perhaps contradicting story.

Yes, there are ample cash premiums and beautiful ribbons for winning entries, and how about the helpful critiques you receive from qualified honey judges? More importantly, as hobbyists and commercial beekeepers, we can’t let ourselves be forgotten or written off by the public or politicians. A robust and visual display shows we are vital and relevant.

The Ohio State Fair requires that all honey entries (and there is a wide range to chose from!) be pre-registered before June 20. More information is available at www.ohiostatefair.com beginning April 1. The honey entries are under the Creative Arts category.

Please consider entering a category or two. If each Ohio club can designate one person to drop off the entries, the task of delivery (and pick-up) becomes simplified.
Eastern Apiculture Society 2016 Conference– Galloway NJ

Located just 10 minutes west of Atlantic City this years presenters include James Frazier and Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Jeff Pettis, Medhat Nasr, Maryann Fraizier, Sarah Red-Laird, David Tarpy and many more.

The week will be filled with educational talks and workshops, scores of national and local vendors, bee olympics, honey show competitions, hands-on bee demonstrations, mead and candle-making, a tour of a large beekeeping operation, and so much more. Plenty of free parking near registration.

Although there will be plenty of dorm rooms available on campus, hotels and campsites book fast for the summer. So check out these sites in the area now if you plan to stay off campus. Registration will open for the event in April.

(Stockton University is a 45 minute drive from the Philadelphia Ben Franklin Bridge, just off the AC expressway.) Join us for our annual conference where you can hang around with some of the most experienced beekeeping minds to be found anywhere. Not just the presenters but some of the most interesting attendees from an unbelievably diverse representation of the industry.

Eastern Apiculture Society Divelbiss Award 2016 Nominations Open

At each annual conference, the Eastern Apicultural Society presents the Charles and Evelyn Divelbiss Education Award. This award is presented to that person or couple who has over a period of years reached out to the non-beekeeping public to explain the value of honey bees in our lives.

The nominee does not need to be from your own state or province. You may wish to announce this request for nominations at beekeeping meetings and in their newsletters. Feel free to contact officers of state and local organizations to request their suggestions for possible candidates and letters of support.

The nomination process is easy. Write a letter outlining how the candidate has reached the general public over the years. Groups, such as 4-H clubs, Scouting organizations, school groups, community organizations, Lions Clubs, and garden clubs, as well as media interviews and exhibits at county and state fairs, qualify as non-beekeeping public.

Although the main criteria is edification of the general public, the letter may also include activities that teach Short Courses and other instructional work toward educating beekeepers and prospective beekeepers. The nominee does not need to be a member of EAS (but the Society would be delighted if the recipient would join).

The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2016. Nominations and letters of support should be emailed to AwardNomination@easternapiculture.org.
### Apiary Inspection Summary for 2015

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- percent AFB: 0.001020044
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- percent Nosma: 0.006018259
- percent Varroa: 0.394705972
- percent SHB: 0.074004183

- "AFB": American Foulbrood, Paenibacillus larvae
- "EFB": European Foulbrood, Melissococcus pluton
- "CB": Chalkbrood, Ascosphaera apis
- "Nosma": Nosema
- "VM": Varroa Mite, Varroa destructor = V. jacobsoni
- "SHB": Small Hive Beetle, Aethina tumida
- "Bee Diseases": pathogenic or parasitic and affects the eggs, larval, pupal or adult stages of the bees
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 in the By-Laws:

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 in the By-Laws:

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. Their duties are the same as the Director duties, listed above.

If you have not met your region’s Representative or Director at your club’s meeting, please invite them for a visit. Their contact information is available at:
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OSBA Executive Board Buzzing About Ohio—
Providing Presentations and Books.

Your OSBA Executive Board has already visited over four local beekeeping associations this quarter. OSBA Treasurer Michele Colopy gave a presentation to the Portage County Beekeepers and presented them with a “Bee-Essentials: A Field Guide” for their library. OSBA VP Terry Lieberman-Smith gave presentations at UBCO and NWOBA. After the presentations, “Bee-Essentials: A Field Guide”, and “Garden Plants for Honey Bees” were presented to the associations, respectively.

If your association would like to schedule an OSBA Executive Board member as a guest speaker, please contact them directly.

________________________________________________________________________

Congratulations to…..

Lifetime OSBA member Carmen Conrad for winning entry at the 2016 American Honey Show at the American Bee Federation Conference this year in Florida.

Carmen’s entry of a Honey Gift Box won Best of Show - Related Products.

From those of us who enter contests, we know how much time and effort is involved, and we congratulate you on winning Best of Show

Advertisement

Buckeye Queen Producers
Ohio Raised Queens for Sale

Ohio has been busy raising local queens for their state with a group called the Buckeye Queen Producers. All of the breeders/producers are concerned with the lack of genetics and good wintering ability of the queens that have generally been available to the beekeeper.

This group of queen breeders/producers is working to add cold weather/varroa hygienic genetics from Sue Cobey, Adam Finkelstein, John Harbo and the Purdue University Insemination program. These traits are being crossed into local survivor stock and then distributed to beekeepers across the state of Ohio. Available stock is still not being produced quickly enough to supply demand. Queens produced are being evaluated for cluster size, spring build up, varroa mite levels, chewed mites, and virus load. BQPC is working towards the goal of more conscientious breeders and producers to expand the gene pool in the state.

BQPC now has official 501c3 status. Please visit www.ohioqueens.org or members below for your Ohio replacement queen needs.

Joe Kovaleski   josephkovaleski@sbcglobal.net
Dwight Wells   dwells35@woh.rr.com
Peggy Games   pgarnes001@neo.rr.com
Rod Pritchard   cobapresident@hotmail.com
Tim Arnett   tarhet@honeyrunapiaries.com
Dan O’Haulon   dannol800@gmail.com
Jason & Angie Bosler   ibosler@hlbc.com
Monna Hess   mfhess@carrowmore.us
Dan Williams   pine_ridge_farms@yahoo.com
Mark Moody   mfabees@fuse.net
Jerry Hinton   hintonapiaries@gmail.com
Howard Baldwin   baldwinsbeehizz@yahoo.com
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“MORE BROOD! MORE BEES! MORE HONEY!!”
A bee club?! You mean people actually have a club for that! What do you do there? Have you ever been responded to or asked that? In my opinion there are clubs for weirder things, but then, I guess as beekeepers, we are a little weird. What kind of person voluntarily goes into a colony of stinging insects and says they actually enjoy it. What’s even crazier is they sometimes do it several times all in one afternoon! To top it off, it might even happen again the next day!

I don’t mean to be preaching to the choir, because I’m sure you all have reasons why you attend club meetings every second Tuesday or third Thursday of the month. There is a social aspect to local bee clubs, but more importantly, our clubs should be about education and networking. Whether you are a new beekeeper, an old beekeeper, or somewhere in between, there are always questions to be asked and answers to be volunteered. Given the challenge of beekeeping today, our clubs offer an opportunity to meet and discuss various issues. But, what if the closest club is an hour or more away? You’ve worked all day, you have to get up early in the morning. The meeting now seems a little more troublesome and you consider not going. What if there was a club closer to home?

This is where our beekeepers were a little over a year ago in the western part of Ohio, close to the Indiana border. It took a couple of us getting together and discussing how we could change that. Our first resource was OSBA. Not sure of what to do, it was through OSBA that contact was made with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, specifically the Apiary Program. It was here that a list of beekeepers in our area was acquired for a mailing. OSBA has funds set aside for new clubs and some of these funds were used to send out post cards for an ad hoc meeting to these beekeepers. The funds from OSBA can be used for other reasons in helping establish a new club.

With a meeting date and a place set, someone will need to head this meeting. If an individual does not come forward, there is always the OSBA District Director and Representative to approach for this. It is within their responsibilities to assist with this. As for a meeting location, think of a place that would be centrally located, after all, it is for convenience that a new club is being formed. Places to consider would be; schools, libraries, other public meeting buildings, other club buildings, and the list goes on. Don’t be discouraged if some decline, some will require certain things, and some will gladly step up. It is to your advantage to use OSBA as the club contact, because of its 501c3 status. Many meeting places will offer a meeting place at no charge, especially if it is non-profit. I will mention more about this later.

Our first meeting happened about a year ago with about 20 beekeepers present and it was held at our local library’s meeting room. We had a small kitchen available, which is handy for refreshments part way through the meeting. Have some refreshments the first meeting as this one will be more social and information gathering. It’s not yet at this point that you need to establish yourself as a club with officers. You will want to determine the interest level and the future meeting location. Once your location is set, try to get it on the calendar on a regular basis. Because of being a new club, we had to adjust meeting dates a couple of months. We now meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. This is now set in stone and there is no question as to when the meeting occurs.

Have everyone to legibly sign in, get an address and phone number along with an email address. You will need this later to share upcoming events. Please believe me, you don’t want to have to call 20 people a couple of hours before an event because of a cancellation. Mass emailing is much easier. Also consider having a Facebook page, it is a valuable tool for sharing information.

Once you have held several meetings, don’t get discouraged if only a handful of people show up, this will happen, especially at first. Some beekeepers will even drop out. The trick in maintaining a respectable club size is to keep people involved and hold their interest. A signup sheet for refreshments each month is one activity that isn’t hard to get volunteers for. As previously mentioned, your OSBA Director and Representative can help with speakers or at least provide suggestions or contact names. You won’t need nationally known speakers. All beekeepers have a special interest and will be glad to talk about it.

After a couple of meetings and people become acquainted, it might be time to suggest club officers. At first, if you haven’t established club dues or are not having club dues, then a club President, Vice-President and a Secretary/Treasurer will be sufficient. At some point it might become necessary to have a Treasurer. I would suggest having a small dues eventually. This will allow the club to provide for incidentals that arise unexpectedly. We established a small annual dues and prorated it the first year. An annual dues of ten to fifteen dollars is an amount to consider. At first we operated the club on a cash basis. Eventually a checking account will be useful.

(Continued on page 21)
To get that, we found that the bank required our club to have an EIN number from the Federal Government. This can be done online at [www.simplefilings.gov/tax.com/federal-ein/?s=GOOGLE](http://www.simplefilings.gov/tax.com/federal-ein/?s=GOOGLE). This we did as “Other Non-Profit Organization (Not Church Controlled)”. In the process, we discovered our organizations name needed to be registered with Ohio. Visit: [www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/upload/business/forms/580.pdf](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/upload/business/forms/580.pdf) to download the Ohio form. There is currently a $25.00 filing fee. This seemed intimidating, but the process, although inconvenient, wasn’t that bad. It just took a couple of weeks. Now you are a Not-For-Profit Association.

The next item of business for us was to adopt a Constitution. Here again, OSBA has a couple of sample Constitutions. These vary in complexity and our intention was to keep it as simple as possible, so we used these as a guideline. Within our Constitution we made provisions for dissolution, using OSBA as the benefiting non-profit. We were also careful to include wording from OSBA’s Constitution stating our purpose and mission to be that which is consistent with OSBA.

With OSBA working on an Affiliation Program, where local associations can fall under OSBA’s 501c3, the wording of our Constitution was such that we could be considered for this. By doing this and becoming an affiliated 501c3, we will have future opportunities and benefits available only to 501c3 organizations. We hope also to be able to purchase Liability Insurance at a cost not otherwise affordable. With a Liability Insurance we will have opportunities for club events otherwise not possible.

Shortly after forming, we held a beginning beekeeping class. We advertised it through local media and had about 20 people enroll. This year, our second class enrolled 43 people. Although this is not intended solely for making money, we were able to add to our treasury. More than that, our club membership is now up to seventy members.

Slowly and carefully, we have been asking for members to assume rolls in heading up committees. This is being met with people gladly volunteering. We now have a Fair Committee, a Refreshment Committee and soon to have a Membership Committee. Members are happy to be involved and this creates a successful and progressive club. Our meetings are informative as well as social. We have made many new friends and with us all being relatively local, it is easy to network on a regular basis as well as spontaneously. We have become active with County Fairs, promoting beekeeping. Members now have opportunities available to them that reach out beyond our local area. New beekeepers now have a resource for local mentors, which is important with so much interest in beekeeping. This later is probably most important of all. The future of beekeeping is, after all, not in the hands of the older beekeepers, but in the hands of the youth. With our clubs working with new beekeepers and especially the youth, we are increasing their chances of being a successful beekeeper. We can help inform when to do what, how to do it and what works best.

I would like to finally add that, even with the work involved, this is a very rewarding experience. What a great bunch of people beekeepers are, as weird and crazy as we can be.

**Editor’s Note:**

OSBA will have detailed instructions, and offer assistance, to all local associations who wish to participate in the Affiliate Program.
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Association Corner

From Alex Zomchek—Miami Valley Region:
Greene County Beekeepers continues to expand the diversity of guest speakers and club activities. Thanks to outreach work by many of its members, the club has been invited to participate in many local festivals with educational booths. The April Spring Clinic, at Russ Nature Reserve, is popular with both club members and the general public.

Southwestern Ohio Beekeepers Association held their quickly sold-out annual conference on April 2nd in Loveland Ohio. Speakers included OSBA Director Alex Zomchek, Dr. Jim Tew, and Kim Flottum.

Warren County Beekeepers provides beekeeping education at its monthly meetings, and also through a very popular club library filled with books, DVDs, and a large selection of magazines.

The Butler County Beekeepers Association begins the 2016 beekeeping season with an exciting lineup of speakers and club hive activities.

From Dwight Wells and Mike Doseck—Top of Ohio:
Greater Grand Lakes Beekeepers Next quarter looks to be very informative for all members, beginning with Barb Bloetscher as guest speaker. Barb’s presentation will cover the importance of pollinator habitat, seasonal beekeeping and pest management. May’s meeting will have members bringing in mites from their hives to inspect for any leg chewer traits. Using the club’s microscope, members will be able to see mites up close. June has no meeting, but we will be holding a field day event which we are tentatively planning for June 25 or 26. This event will be published later on our Facebook page when the event is determined.

West COBA held a beekeeping school on January 9th and will hold two more later this spring. Pictured right are students building frames.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association has developed an Emergency Action Plan kit. This kit, along with volunteers, is designed to help out a club member when their apiary is facing a time-crunch crisis such as a flood or imminent nearby pesticide spray. Guest speakers and pre-meeting hive inspections have resulted in increased meeting attendance.

From Dwight Wilson and Mike Soboleski—Maumee Valley Region:
The Maumee Valley Beekeepers held a once a month, three month new beekeepers class with about 30 new beekeepers.

The Northwest Ohio Beekeepers invited OSBA Vice-President Terry Lieberman-Smith as their guest speaker in March. The club is in plans for an educational and exciting field day later this year.

From Jason Bosler—Crossroads Region:
The Coshocton County Beekeepers had two events in February, kicking off the new year with a February 17th meeting. The club enjoyed a very informative presentation given by Jeannie Saum of BEEpothecary. Jeannie gave insight into the seemingly endless uses of the resources available from a beehive. After the presentation, Mrs. Saum opened the meeting to questions going through the many samples and products she has for sale. The club members left the meeting with increased views of the possibilities related to beekeeping activities. On February 20, 2016 the club held the 4th annual Beginning Beekeepers class. The class, led by seven members of the club, with support from another dozen club members, covered the important issues needed to begin beekeeping. The 19 people enrolled in the class were able to not only receive basic instruction, but were exposed to various opinions and knowledge through the comradery and discussion between the presenters and members.

Tri-County Beekeepers held their sold-out conference on March 4-5, with over 900 in attendance. Speakers included Dan O’Hanlon, Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, and Buddy May. Dr. Tsuruda has done research with Dr. Greg Hunt at Purdue.

Columbiana-Mahoning Beekeepers Association is proud to support an OSBA 4-H Partnership Program winner.

From Peggy Garnes– Western Reserve Region:
The first quarter of 2016 has been a very busy one for the Medina County Beekeepers Association. Over 116 folks participated in our "Beginners Class" and currently there are 300+ members on the roster!

Monthly meetings start with a "Beginners Half Hour". This "pre-meeting" is designed as an extension of our beginners class where any member is welcome to attend and ask any question, regarding bees, that they need more information on. The goal is to have three "facilitators/ in- (Continued on page 26)
**Association Corner** (Continued from page 25)

“Teachers” assigned to one of three colonies and follow the progress of that colony throughout the season.

Guest speakers for the 1st half of the year include Dr. Jim Tew, Ben Slay, James Wilkes, Dr. Tom Seeley and Steve Rapasky. In June we will host a Pollinator Evening with a variety of guest speakers to include OSBA Executive Board members Michele Colopy and Terry Lieberman-Smith.

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers** are busy planning their May 21 6th Annual Field Day and Conference, with Guest Speaker Ross Conrad. Registration information at: www.greaterlevelandbeekeepers.com. OSBA Representative Peggy Garnes will be their Guest Speaker at their April meeting.

GCBA just completed the 2016 Beginner Beekeeper classes. Some of the proud graduates.

**Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association** is the proud sponsor of an OSBA 4-H Partnership winner. Their April 23rd meeting is a potluck event along with the annual auction.

**Portage County Beekeepers** long time leadership Dan and Peg Kaminski, announced their retirement from their key positions in the PCBA. We truly appreciate their great dedication! During the transition, the new officers have taken this opportunity to ensure the objectives of the club are being met. Everyone is looking forward to the club’s future. We have several exciting events planned for the coming year, great speakers, workshops, informative field days and family gatherings. In 2017, we are also looking forward to introducing our first Beginner Beekeeping classes.

It’s been a busy year so far for **Summit County Beekeepers** and at the time of this writing they are only just finishing up the first quarter!

In February they welcomed 50 new beekeepers into the association via the beginner’s course. These folks also became members of OSBA since SCBA took advantage of their outreach packet. Thank you OSBA! This was five intensive weeks of beekeeping education. Although lectures, Powerpoints and videos can only partially prepare students, we think we did pretty well. Hands-on experience with bees will be starting in April with the installation of a package, continuing with ongoing apiary visits throughout the season.

**Lorain County Beekeepers Association** have had a great turnout for the classes taught by Denzil St. Clair. Over 60 students and families attended the sessions.

**Geauga County Beekeepers Association** will have their Spring Field Day on May 21st at the Case Western Reserve University Farm. For more info, visit: www.geaugacountybeekeepers.org.

From Tom Rathbun—Erie Basin:

**Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association** (SRVBA) had their Pancake and Sausage Potok on March 7th. The club is holding their Beginners Beekeeping classes on April 2 and April 9th. The first Saturday will be classroom work and the second Saturday will be outside and include installing a package of bees.

**Black Fork Bee Club** meets in Mansfield on the second Thursdays of the month.

**From Marishka Wile—Ohio Valley**

**The Brown County Beekeepers Association** held its first meeting on February 9th. The night’s educational program was a lecture by Jim Coss who spoke to a packed audience about How to Increase Your Hives Inexpensively. The club’s recent growth of forty new members necessitated a special February 16th meeting for beginning beekeepers only. Kevin Hale gave a dynamic and informative PowerPoint on Raising Your Own Nucs and Queens in March. Next month’s speaker is Dwight Wells.

Brown County attendees of the Licking River Bee School in Maysville, Kentucky enjoyed an educational conference in February. Many are also registered to attend the Warren County Bee School at The Oasis on April 2nd.

The Brown County Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Western Brown High School in Mount Orab. For more information visit www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org.

Ohio Valley has two other clubs in the region that hold monthly meetings. The **Adams County Beekeepers Association** meet in the annex building of the Bible Baptist Church on the third Thursday of each month February to October at 7 pm at 9849 State Route 41, West Union. Check their Facebook page before visiting, www.facebook.com/pages/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association/214316711916893?fref=ts&ref=br_tf

**The Highland County Beekeepers Association** meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 119 Governor Foraker Place in Hillsboro. You can visit HCBA online at
Both of these clubs have smaller memberships making them ideal for beginning beekeepers to have their questions answered by veteran beekeepers.

From Larry Potter and Jeff Gabric—Heart of Ohio:

Central Ohio Beekeepers Association first meeting of the Advanced Bee Yard was April 12th at the Franklin Park Conservatory.

Scioto Valley Beekeepers SVB’s Valentine’s Day/Beat the Winter Doldrums gathering was a great success. A tremendous array of food and happy faces made such a wonderful evening and I’m sure we’ll do it again next year. One of the coldest evenings of the year turned into one of the nicest when in the company of friends and food! We are seeing new faces at nearly every meeting. The Scioto Valley Beekeeper-owned hives at Slate Run Farm continue to do well. Scioto Valley Beekeepers has a three-frame honey extractor that can be loaned to members on a first-come, first served basis for a very nominal fee.

Knox County Beekeepers offered their popular beginner classes in February and March. Enrollment topped 30 students. At the club’s March meeting, President Jeff Gabric presented the club’s OSBA 4-H Partnership winner, Madalyn Sponsler with not only the equipment from OSBA, but also with 2 3-pound packages that Knox County Beekeepers purchased from Simpsons Bee Supply.

East Central Ohio Beekeepers has a great line-up of speakers this year including Kent Williams, Dan O’Hanlon and Michele Colopy. Plans are finished for their 2016 September conference.

Urban Beekeepers of Central Ohio (UBCO) in the Columbus area started its year on February 11th with Mike Albaugh presenting on "checker boarding" and followed by OSBA VP Terry Lieberman-Smith presenting on March 10th discussing "The Beekeepers Year". Both presentations were excellent packed full of useful information and members were asking a lot of great questions. Sharon Treaster will be their April 14th speaker presenting on the "Pollinator Garden Network Project". UBCO meets on the second Thursday evening of the month (Feb-Nov) at St Andrew Presbyterian Church.

The April 3rd meeting has Jody Croley Jones speaking on bees and their importance in pollination & issues causing bee declines. The church board has voted to allow UBCO to place 2 hives in one of their courtyards. They are helping sponsor the hives by getting a small church grant to cover the cost for 2 NUCS. UBCO will supply the materials and maintain the hives. On April 16th, a beginner’s bee class will be held 9-5. Contact urbanbeekeepersofcentralohio@gmail.com for more info. UBCO is looking for donations of unused (or good condition) woodenware by April 30th. Items needed are medium 8-frame supers, inner covers, top covers, and screened bottom boards for 2 hives. The hives are to be placed in a church courtyard and used for educational purposes.

On May 7th, UBCO will have a booth at the Gahanna Herb Festival located at Creekside District, 117 Mill St in Gahanna from 9-4pm. They expect around 3000 people to attend the festival this year.

From the Buckeye Hills Region:

Tri-State Beekeepers’ novice program is well under way with presentations by John Grafton, John Welty, and Steve Roth. We have 27 participants and many have expressed a desire to join the club for additional exposure to experienced beekeepers. At the April 21 meeting, our own Barry Peters and a representative from American National Farm Family Insurance Company will speak on the extent of our liability as beekeepers and vendors. May 19 finds our friend Bob Hooker speaking on Backyard Queen Production. The open hive demonstrations, scheduled on SATURDAY, June 11 will be presented by Wade Stittner, the Chief Apiary Inspector for the State of West Virginia. Wade will show us how to evaluate a colony in addition to demonstrations on mite management and the general makeup of the colony for newer beekeepers. The Tri-State Beekeepers meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Good Zoo building on Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Check our website, www.tristatebeekeepers.com for additional information.

The Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers’ Association’s 2016 Honey Bee Expo is now in the past, and soon plans for the 2017 Expo will be getting underway. The WVUP scheduler has gotten us penciled in for January 28th as a tentative date for next year. Phil Craft is scheduled join as the featured speaker. Total attendees were around 360, which included guests, speakers, and vendors. So thanks to all who supported our endeavor and made this event a success.

Now that the Expo is over, members have marked the calendar for April 9th, WVBA Conference in Chapmanville, sponsored by the Corridor G Beekeepers’ Association.

Several new members joined the club in February, a result of the large beginning beekeepers class at the Expo. We welcome these new members and wish them good luck with their new hobby.
Hi, my name is Hannah Whitehead. I’m a master’s student working with Dr. Reed Johnson at the Ohio State University Bee Lab. My research focuses on drone brood removal for mite control.

Varroa mites are widely considered the most damaging honey bee pest. The mites are analogous to ticks on humans – they feed on the bee’s “blood” (hemolymph) and spread a number of harmful viruses. Mites reproduce inside capped honey bee brood, and are about 10x more likely to invade drone brood rather than worker brood.⁴ Beekeepers can manage mites by combining one or more proven mite control tactics.

One promising control method that has been largely overlooked is called drone brood removal (DBR). DBR is a trapping technique that can be used for early-season mite management. A beekeeper using DBR adds a frame of drone foundation to his or her hive as a “trap” frame. Every three weeks – when the drone brood is capped, and mites have invaded the cells – the beekeeper removes the frame and kills the trapped mites by freezing or by scraping the frame contents onto the ground. This method has been shown to reduce mite populations with no negative effects on colony health.⁵ Despite these promising results, only one study on DBR has been conducted in the United States, and none in the Midwest.³

Last summer, I conducted an experiment testing the efficacy of drone brood removal (DBR) for mite control here in Ohio. I worked with three beekeepers in central and western Ohio. We managed half of the study hives with DBR, and half with no mite treatment. We found that the DBR hives had significantly lower mite-to-bee ratios in mid-August (Avg. 1.68%) compared with hives that received no mite treatment (Avg. 3.3%).

These preliminary results suggest that DBR could be an effective tool for curbing mite populations early in the season. It could form a preventative component of a mite management strategy, and could be combined with another mite treatment, strong genetics, or a brood break. We will be conducting the experiment again this summer in northeast Ohio.

Getting Involved:

The Basics:

I will be conducting on-farm trials of Drone Brood Removal (DBR) in Northeast Ohio from mid-April to mid-August 2016. Participants will be actively involved in research, and will have the opportunity to learn more about drone brood removal and mite-monitoring using sugar-shakes. Beekeepers who already use DBR are welcome to participate. [*DBR users who are not interested in the on-farm trial: I still want to hear from you!]*

As part of the project, I will be talking with current DBR users to understand best management practices for this region. Please reach out by phone or email using the contact info below.

The Details:

HIVES
* To participate, you must have at least 4 (ideally 6) overwintered hives that you would like to enroll in the study.
* Hives must be within 1 hour of Wooster, OH.
* These hives must have had no mite treatments yet in 2016 (treatments in 2015 are OK).

(Continued on page 29)
Beekeepers who already use DBR are welcome and encouraged to participate!

The study will run from mid-April thru mid-August. The study hives cannot receive any additional mite treatment during that time. After the study ends in August, beekeepers are free to apply other mite treatments.

SCHEDULE

* Half of the hives will receive the DBR treatment during the study period, and half will receive no treatment. **OSU will provide drone foundation frames.**
* Beekeepers will need to check the brood box of the treatment hives at least once every 2-3 weeks, and will be actively involved in switching out drone frames.
* **Freezer space** for at least 3 deep frames is preferred, but not necessary.
* **Once a month,** researchers from OSU will check for mites in the study hives using sugar-shakes. The beekeeper is welcome (and encouraged!) to participate, since they know their hives best. We would arrange these visits to fit the beekeeper's schedule.

Contact:
* If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out by phone or email! Let me know where you are located and how many hives you would like to enroll in the study. Please contact me before April 15 to participate in the experiment. I'm excited to hear from you!

Hannah Whitehead
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References:
Broodnest Size and Management

In order to produce a profitable honey crop the broodnest must be full of bees, brood, and honey at the beginning of the main honey flow. Once the flow commences the bees have no choice but to store any surplus in the supers. Accordingly, there are four basic requirements that must be met in order to achieve this result. The first three, a good queen, a suitable field force, and abundant stores during the spring buildup period relate directly to population management and colony buildup. The fourth requirement, proper broodnest size, is the primary focus of this article.

Ten Frame Configurations

The double hive body has been the standard or most common broodnest configuration since the beginning of moveable frame beekeeping, or so it would seem. (Three 6 5/8ths or medium depth boxes are the equivalent of two deep hive bodies) The double’s main advantage is its ability to house the strongest of colonies, and to provide storage space for an abundance of winter stores. There are however a couple of downsides. Large broodnests are of limited value in areas with a short spring buildup period, or where continual cold weather dominates the spring landscape. In addition, questionable overwintered colonies, spring splits, and replacement packages will rarely buildup fast enough to fill the large broodnest. As a result the early honey, often the season’s best honey, will be stored in the brood boxes immediately above and around the established broodnest. These colonies frequently become honey bound. When that happens broodnest expansion is restricted, which in turn limits the size of the honey crop, and dramatically increases the colony’s swarming potential. Queen excluder use can also be somewhat problematic. Because of the large broodnest, colonies in less than optimal condition will frequently attempt to live below the excluder. The term “honey excluder” quite possibly originated as a result of this tendency.

The one and a half story broodnest, a combination of one deep and one medium box is slightly smaller than the double described above. I normally run a ten frame broodnest, but with this configuration, a medium or 6 5/8ths inch box with nine frames sets on the bottom board with a ten frame hive body on top. The main focus of the nine frame spacing in the lower box is to provide additional clustering space, especially during the spring buildup and swarming period. It’s my version of the slatted rack, but without the time and expense of dealing with an additional piece of equipment. All the spring management work takes place in the upper ten frame hive body. The lower nine frame medium box is never touched.

The actual comb area of the one and a half story configuration described above is approximately three and a quarter deep frames smaller than that of a standard ten frame double. From a management standpoint, that small difference is huge. Whether I’m dealing with a marginal overwintered colony, spring splits, or a replacement package, it’s a relatively simple process to build the colony into honey production form. Provided you add supers in a timely manner, these colonies rarely become honey bound. Likewise, there aren’t any queen excluder issues. In the larger double hive body configuration, the bees will often attempt to live below the excluder. With the smaller one and a half or single hive body colonies, they seem to realize that’s not possible, so they pass through with impunity.

Weight vs. size is another one and a half advantage. For one reason or another everyone will eventually be forced to move a colony or two. With doubles, the added weight coupled with their larger size makes relocation a chore, especially if it’s a one man operation. With adequate banding or a good ratchet strap, a one and a half story colony can usually be moved without breaking it apart, or half killing yourself in the process.

The last major consideration is winter stores. Despite their smaller size, a one and a half story broodnest is nearly the equal of a ten frame double when it comes to honey storage capacity. In addition, the nine frame spacing in the lower box provides the colony with additional early winter clustering space. Over the past twenty or so years, my overwintering success with one and a half story colonies has probably exceeded that of the doubles. I suspect that the additional clustering space coupled with a more even distribution of the winter food reserves is responsible. If honey production is your primary goal, in my opinion, a one and a half broodnest is far and away the most practical all-around colony configuration.

The single hive body broodnest is the smallest of the three ten frame configurations. A common sight in southern bee yards, in northern latitudes singles are generally too small to be used as a year-round broodnest. However, they have a multitude of special purpose uses. For example, I start my spring splits in five frame nuc boxes. If the weather remains cool I’ll add a second five frame box for expansion. Prior to the start of the main flow the colony is transferred into a single hive body and supered with drawn comb above an excluder. Should weather remain warm the initial split is transferred and allowed to build in the single. Drawn combs, including some with honey, fill out the box. Summer splits are handled the same way. They’re started in nuc boxes and transferred (Continued on page 32)
into a single hive body once the new queen’s brood starts to emerge. Five additional drawn combs, mostly filled with honey, are added to complete the assembly. This is designed to minimize any feeding should the fall flow fail to materialize. Once cold weather arrives the summer splits are supplied with upper ventilation and top insulation, and wrapped in pairs.

Singles are also ideal for dealing with problematic overwintered colonies. Regardless of the issue, reduce the colony in question down to a single hive body or its equivalent, then deal with the problem accordingly. Use either a solid bottom board or tightly closed screened bottom, and leave the entrance reducer in place. Once queenright, the small protected cavity (it requires 93-94° to rear brood) will allow the colony to expand at a much faster rate than would be possible with a wide open entrance or screened bottom board! It’s the same reason you start spring splits in nuc boxes. Heat retention allows the small colony to build much faster than would be possible in a larger abode.

**Spring Management, Equalization vs. Broodnest Size**

As was stated in the introduction, the secret to producing a profitable honey crop is to manage your colony(s) so that the broodnest is full of bees, brood, and honey at the start of the main flow. There are three avenues of approach to that end result. You can do nothing and hope that Mother Nature is in a beneficial mood. You can add or remove brood and adult bees (equalization) to achieve the desired colony strength. Or, you can adjust the size of the broodnest to that same end. Depending on the number of colonies you operate, a combination of the second and third options will generally produce the best result. The critical ingredient in this management strategy is the ability to estimate a colony’s condition and predict its growth rate well in advance of the main honey flow. Adjustments to a colony’s population, i.e. its growth rate, or to the size of the broodnest are made as early in the spring buildup period as possible. From that point on the colony is allowed to build into honey production strength with minimal beekeeper interference.

So how do you determine colony strength or condition well in advance of the spring buildup period? The secret lies with the adult population. In early spring, the size of a colony’s adult population is directly proportional to its overall strength. It’s much easier to estimate colony strength by observing the field force than it is to tear the colony apart in order to view the brood. On the first sunny 60-65 degree day with minimal wind, simply observe the late morning or early afternoon flight pattern. (Don’t confuse normal flight with play flight, i.e. young bees marking the location of their hive prior to their commencement as foragers) The colonies with the largest field force are almost always the strongest colonies. Mark them for future reference. Other than a quick check on the food reserves, no further observation is necessary until you’re ready to begin the spring management process.

The second stage of the evaluation process should correspond with the start of the spring management program. The easiest way to accurately assess the size of the adult population, hence overall colony strength, is by observing the number of bees that are visible on the bottom bars of the lowest active brood box. Start with the colonies you identified as the strongest during the early season evaluation. Using a double hive body colony as the standard, lift off the top box and set it aside. Then working from behind, tip the back of the bottom box forward so that you have a clear view of the bottom bars. Mentally note the number of bees visible around, or between the bottom bars. This will give you a rough idea of a colony’s adult population in relation to the available broodnest area. Remember, most of the field bees will be out foraging, so what you observe is representative of only fifty to sixty percent of the total adult population. Super strong colonies are instantly recognizable in that the bottom bars will be completely covered with bees. With these types of colonies it’s not uncommon for the cluster to cover a good portion of the bottom board as well. Keep in mind, open colony evaluations work on a sliding scale. As the number of visible bees decreases, overall colony strength is reduced accordingly.

The information gained via the open colony evaluation should allow you to quickly determine which colonies need to be weakened, or equalized, and by how much. (Equalization describes the process of removing the excess bees and brood from the strongest colonies, and then using those resources to boost weaker colonies, or to make up splits) However, equalization only goes so far. It’s virtually impossible to perfectly match the excess bees and brood with the colonies in need. There is almost always a negative discrepancy. This is where broodnest size enters into the equation. As long as the basic honey production requirements (a good queen, a suitable field force, and plentiful stores) are met, the size of the broodnest matters little. As stated earlier, you will produce far more honey if your broodnest are teeming with bees, as opposed to their being only half full.

Listed below are four examples of where broodnest reduction may well prove the difference between profit and loss. (A good honey crop vs. little or no honey crop) Below average colonies are weak for a reason. Frequently they’re the result of a late season supercedure. The colony was able to satisfactorily replace its queen, but didn’t have time to fully rebuild its population prior to fall shut down. Reduce the broodnest size and these colonies can/will literally explode. Often they become top producers without any further intervention. Colonies that are going through spring supercedure fall into the same category. Reduce the broodnest size, and add a frame or two of emerging brood once you see new capped brood. And, make sure you have plenty of supers on hand. Any colony

(Continued on page 33)
that overwinters in below average condition, but otherwise appears healthy, should have its broodnest reduced. Replace the queen, or add brood if necessary. This type of colony will often fill a smaller broodnest and go on to produce a decent honey crop. Were it to remain in a double hive body it would likely become honey-bound and swarm. As stated above, any colony with obvious problems should have its broodnest downsized. Once the problem has been corrected, the colony can be supered if the flow is still ongoing. Otherwise it can be left to build, split for increase, or used to re-queen another failing colony.

**Adding Supers**

Timely supering is another critical component of any spring management program. When you super early with drawn comb you accomplish two objectives at the same time. First, you provide storage space for incoming nectar, anticipated or otherwise. Secondly, you provide a clustering or parking place for the excess numbers of young bees that are starting to congest the broodnest. Colonies that have been weakened through the equalization process should have the first super(s) installed the day they were equalized. The same holds true for colonies that were strengthened through the transfer of brood and adult bees. Get those first supers on immediately!

Splits, packages, and colonies where the broodnest has been downsized are treated somewhat differently. These smaller broodnests can easily become congested once the large mid-spring brood cycles start to emerge. Add to that a minor or unexpected honey flow, and the problems immediately start to multiply. To eliminate these issues I add the first super (drawn comb) above a queen excluder when the bees are occupying the spaces between six or more frames in the upper brood box. I add a second super when I see bees covering three or more frames in the first super. As long as you use a queen excluder, don’t worry about over-supering. Once the main flow begins you can re-adjust the supers as necessary.

The above management strategies may seem a bit complicated at first glance. However, with a little practice they will more then prove their worth. As with any management program, local conditions determine the specifics. In that regard, don’t hesitate to experiment or make adjustments that fit the local norms or your particular management style.

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You Can Have It All… (Continued from page 11)

One last crucial ingredient is needed to make this whole recipe work out. You are making these splits after the nectar flows in midsummer. This also means there is little or no pollen out there at a time when you are starting new splits and a new brood cycle. It is necessary that you feed BOTH carbohydrates (sugars) and proteins to ensure survivability and good health so as to build up for possible fall flows and winter preparations. This includes the original colony you made splits from. Aside: a lot of data supports nutritional feeding during the summer dearth for all of your colony’s health.

To recap: you get your maximum honey crop with maximum colony strength. You then make splits to replace and expand your colony numbers. You reduce mite loads with its subsequent pathogen issues with brood breaks. And you produce or get new queens which lessons swarming and increases laying viability and colony buildsups.

So you can have it all – almost. Better genetic is the almost part, but that is another story. Certainly this is the right time of year and a goal worth striving for!
Editor’s Corner: Bees Are Not the Only Buzz-y Ones

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Everyone always jokes with me “and what do you do in your spare time.”  Spare time is overrated. Activities and projects are the lifeblood of any person or group. When one project wraps up, another project begins...at least in a perfect world.

Your OSBA Executive Board is awash with great programs for Ohio beekeepers. For example, it was brought to our attention that a large big box store was starting to seasonally sell bee equipment. I decided to visit said store and see what they were selling. After a quick recon, I noticed that while there was equipment, there was no easily available information about beekeeping, registration, associations, etc. that would be beneficial to new-bees.

Thanks to OSBA member David Crawford, we were able to contact a company executive. One day later, during lunch, I received a phone call. The long and short of the story is that within one week, we developed a hang-sheet program for the company to help encourage new-bees to become part of our beekeeping community. OSBA is supplying a full color double-sided laminated sheet to all Ohio stores, for display by the beekeeping equipment. When customers use the QR code on the sheet, it will take them to a customized landing page on the OSBA website with important links to ODA registration, local association contacts, and more. The company sent OSBA a list of their Ohio stores, along with contact information for each location. We will be sharing this information with local bee associations so that each club can communicate, if they like, with the stores to help promote beekeeping in their communities. Nothing like a beekeeping education day to help bring awareness to beekeeping and local associations, and of course the hosting store.

Reaching out to a large big box retailer to help educate beekeepers….its just what we do for the Ohio cluster!

OSBA is about supporting beekeeping and beekeepers. How could we not reach out to people who want to become beekeepers, and are not necessarily aware of ORC codes, zoning issues, and best management practices, or even basic beekeeping in general. Not everyone is aware that beekeeping associations may be nearby.

Last year a café nearby was written up in the local newspaper because they were going to have a beeyard behind the building. I went and introduced myself, and he was surprised to learn how many beekeepers lived near his store. He honestly thought that he would be the only person within the town to have bees. The person who was managing his bees lived over 45 minutes away. I shared with the store owner the contact information for the local associations, should he have swarming issues and the like.

The OSBA hive is buzz-y with plans, projects and activities that are always centered around improving beekeeping for our Ohio beekeepers. Whether it is creating the Pollinator Oasis Seed Blend, developing the Save the Honey Bee license, interviewing for the podcasts, sending out New Beekeeper Welcome packets, or even participating at upcoming events throughout Ohio, OSBA is here to help improve and promote beekeeping for Ohio beekeepers.

No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

These cookies remind me of what would happen if a macaroon and a candy bar (the one that you eat when you don't feel like a nut) had offspring. These are easy, delicious...and a bit messy.

Macmound Cookies

1/3 c. brown sugar
6 T butter
1 t. vanilla extract
1/3 c. honey
1 1/3 c. unsweetened shredded coconut
3/4 c. chocolate chips (I like dark chocolate)
3/4 c. raisins
2 c. old-fashioned oats, slightly chopped

Heat oven to 375 and spray an 8 inch baking dish with Pam.

In a microwave safe large container, melt butter. Stir in brown sugar, honey and vanilla and then in the rest of the ingredients. Gently press mixture into 8x8 pan. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden. It will burn if you don't pay attention. Cool completely. Cut into bars.....enjoy!
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REGION**
- Heart of Ohio
- Miami Valley
- Maumee Valley
- Crossroads
- Erie Basin
- Western Reserve
- Top of Ohio
- Buckeye Hills
- Ohio Valley
- Ohio Valley

Representatives will be selected at the January Board Meeting.

### Staff Appointments:

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

### 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!
Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2016 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:

Ohio State Beekeepers Association
P.O. Box 110952
Cleveland, OH 44111-9998

Name: _____________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City: __________ State: ___ Zip: ____________ County: ______________________
Phone: (_____)-__________ Email Address (Print neatly) _____________________________

Name of Local Bee Association: _____________________________________________

Number of Hives: ______________________________________
☐ $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 want to be on the OSBA Swarm List

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