OSBA Fall Conference—

Bee There! November 5, 2016

Invest a day in your education for a lifetime of better beekeeping

This year’s OSBA Fall Conference at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City OH will be another record-setting event. Our guest speakers include:

Jamie Ellis

Steve Repasky

Reed Johnson

Alex Zomchek

Christie Welch

And others….

Check out our growing vendor list on page 3. If you pre-order your beekeeping supplies, these vendors will bring them to the conference and you will save on shipping and handling. Check our website for updates on vendors and activities. Dadant is offering a special for our attendees.

Get your honey entries ready for our ever popular Honey Judging Contest, judged by Jim Thompson.

OSBA Apiary Diagnostic Kits

✓ Beta Testing in Progress

OSBA Pavilion at the Ohio State Fair— Even Bigger and Better than Last Year
OSBA Affiliate Program

OSBA has received approval from the IRS regarding the newly created OSBA Affiliate Program. This program offers 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— A Great Educational (and Fun) 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 Repasky, OSU extension educator Christie Welch, Alex Zomchek, 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.

This year’s conference will also include two special sessions: one is focused on providing information to local associations regarding how to register their associations with the state, yearly paperwork required, club insurance requirements, financial reporting, etc. Did you know that even an informal bee meeting a someone’s house could have legal ramifications?

The second session will focus on the OSBA Affiliate Program, and if being an affiliate is appropriate for your association.

If you are part of a local association, or are thinking of starting a bee association, these sessions will help ensure that not only are you legal with the state, but that you can sleep well at night!

Our vendor list includes: Betterbee, Blue Sky Bee Supply, Dadant, Kelley Bees, Mann Lake, Mel Disselkoen, Rock Bridge Trees. Check out our websites for updates.

Just for our attendees...Dadant is offering a 5% discount on pre-orders placed at the Frankfort Location only, along with no delivery fee when your order is brought to the meeting. Orders need to be placed by November 2 to ensure delivery to the OSBA Fall Conference. When you place your order at: 502.848.0000 let them know the order is to be delivered to the OSBA Fall Conference.

Registration for the OSBA November 5th Fall Conference opens on September 1.

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.

Amalia Haas          Sonny & Melanie  
Ward

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Ward

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.
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 does this plate help bring public awareness to the importance of honey bees and beekeepers, it will provides 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 Educational Outreach to Big Box Retailer

Look what I just brought home…..could be an interesting start to a family conversation after a trip to Rural King. When OSBA learned that Rural King was selling beekeeping equipment, we contacted them to offer some educational information to help provide their customers with some important details about beekeeping...such as zoning issues, ODA registration requirements, educational topics and local association locations.

These laminated, reusable hang-tags not only offer information for consumers, but also have a QR code with a link to a special landing page on the OSBA website with direct links to ODA, local associations and other helpful information on the OSBA website.
OSBA 4-H Partnership Program Winners—Updates

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.

Brayden Monahan:
Here is a picture of the entire family assembly our new hives. This has been a very exciting family project, because there is so much information in a huge project like this we all are taking part in some aspect.

The Maumee Valley BKA voted to provide me with two nucs.

In May I received my first nuc, provided by David Veith and arranged by Roger Myers.

Gabrielle Adams:
She is diligently learning all about bees and having a blast!

Tyler Bierer:
I was so excited when I found out I won! I got my two hives started and so far everything is good, my mentor is really helping me out! Can’t wait for the honey to start!

Madalyn Sponsler and her mentor Linda O’Brien, member of Knox County Beekeepers Association, inspecting the hives four days after installation of bees. We are making sure the queen made her way out of the queen cage. My hives are doing very well. This has been very exciting!
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OSBA Buzzing Around the State—Ohio Pollinator Week

Michele Colopy

Celebrate Ohio Pollinators Week began with a Resolution from Governor Kasich, and the first event held Sunday, June 19 the week was filled with celebration, education, and fun about honey bees and native pollinators.

Sponsored by Ohio company, Scott’s Miracle GRO, coordinated by Michele Colopy, Program Manager for Pollinator Stewardship Council, and featuring event partners the Cleveland Botanical Garden, June 19, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden, June 25, and the Charity A. Krueger Farm Discovery Center at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, June 26, Ohio State Beekeepers and Pollinator Stewardship Council have collaborated to celebrate the beekeeping history of Ohio.

Tabitha Mansker, pictured at right, the 2016 American Honey Princess, visited the Cleveland Botanical Gardens, June 19 as part of the Celebrate Ohio Pollinators event. Tabitha is the 20 year-old daughter of Gary and Wanda Mansker of Nevada, TX. She is pursuing studies in business and marketing, and hopes to become a teacher. Tabitha stays busy helping to manage her family’s 16 hives of bees, and extracting honey for many commercial beekeeping operations.

Kim Kester, pictured on the left, the 2016 American Honey Queen, visited the Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus, June 25, and the Aullwood Audubon Farm and Nature Center in Dayton, June 26 as part of the Celebrate Ohio Pollinators event.

Kim is the 24-year-old daughter of Jim and Barb Kester of Nekoosa, Wisconsin. She is a graduate from the University of Wisconsin, where she double-majored in dairy science and poultry science. Kim began beekeeping in 2014 and now owns six hives. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Agricultural Education at Iowa State University. Kim and Tabitha serve as national spokespersons on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the United States. Kim and Tabitha’s visit to Ohio is sponsored by the Pollinator Stewardship Council and Scotts.

Local OSBA beekeeping associations are represented at each of the three destinations in Ohio: the Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association, Central Ohio Beekeepers Association, and East Central Ohio Beekeepers in Columbus, and Miami Valley Beekeepers Association in Dayton. Celebrate Ohio Pollinators Week was recognized by Proclamations by Frank Jackson, the Mayor of Cleveland, Nan Whaley, the Mayor of Dayton, and Resolutions by Governor Kasich, The Ohio House and The Ohio senate.

Your OSBA Board Members Annette Birt Clark, OSBA Secretary, Peggy Garnes, OSBA Representative and EAS Director, and Terry Lieberman-Smith, OSBA Vice-President staffed the tables at the three events.
Celebrate Pollinators Through Art: Fifth Graders Viewpoint

Michele Colopy

Pollinator Stewardship Council collaborated with Mrs. Char Tabata of King Community Learning Center in Akron, Ohio seeking the fifth graders’ artistic celebration of pollinators. Michele Colopy, Program Director of the Council gave a presentation to the students as part of an end of year science project. The children also took a field trip to a bee yard to talk with a beekeeper, and see her bee hives.

The students submitted drawings, slide shows, and a stop action video.

The art submissions were juried by Christine Gorbach, a thirty-year art educator, Elliot Marks, a graduate of Kent State University in Graphic Design, and Claire Marks, a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art in Printmaking.

First place was awarded to Josh Ledbetter for his presentation “The True Buzz On What’s Happening to Bees.” Second place was awarded to Abby Mangiafico for her drawing “Bee Mindful.” Third place was awarded to Vianca Domke for her drawing titled, “Bee Wise.” Two honorable mentions were given to Maximillian Winslow and Lucy Lerow for recognizing the challenge of creating a stop action video, and for their call to action to their peers. As recognition for their creativity all students received a bee attractive potted plant. The students receiving an honorable mention received a certificate, and a sketchbook and art pen to encourage their artistic endeavors. The first, second, and third place winners received a certificate and a gift card to Pat Catan’s to purchase art supplies.

As recognition for their creativity all students received a bee attractive potted plant. The students receiving an honorable mention received a certificate, and a sketchbook and art pen to encourage their artistic endeavors. The first, second, and third place winners received a certificate and a gift card to Pat Catan’s to purchase art supplies.

This art project is part of the Celebrate Ohio Pollinators Week, June 19-26, 2016. Pollinator Stewardship Council in collaboration with Ohio State Beekeepers Association developed a Celebration of Ohio Pollinators as part of National Pollinator Week June 19-26, 2016. Sponsored by an Ohio company, The art work is on display on the Pollinator Stewardship Council website: [http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=4630](http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=4630). It was also displayed at the Council booth at each of the three event venues during Pollinator Week.
Whether you are a brand new beekeeper, or a seasoned veteran, it can be an overwhelming challenge to manage your hives. Proper forage, mites, beetles, diseases, pesticide issues are all components that need to be factored in to maintaining your hive’s health.

All the experts talk about monitoring your hives, and the information available on-line and in books can lead anyone to question their own sanity. How in the world do these experts expect you to get all these tasks accomplished, and enjoy working with your bees?

What’s a poor beekeeper to do….let alone colony of honey bees?

OSBA heard your concerns and has developed a portable diagnostic kit that beekeepers at all levels of expertise can use during apiary visits to monitor and track the health of their hives.

OSBA formed a committee to investigate the possibility of creating a monitoring kit that would help beekeepers track hive health and improve the sustainability of their honey bees. The kit would need to be portable, affordable, and effective in tracking hive health. Other directives included easy to use, simple to create, and applicable to all levels of beekeepers.

The volunteer ADK Committee consisting of Tim Arheit, Annette Birt Clark, Michele Colopy, Peggy Garnes, Terry Lieberman-Smith and Alex Zomchek combed through the myriad of information on pests, diseases and monitoring techniques available to beekeepers and condensed the data into a simple step-by-step spiral bound, laminated manual. The committee also selected a variety of easy to use tools to include in the kit.

In order to test the effectiveness of the kit, the OSBA Board approved funding for 50 kits. Our volunteer ADK beta testers are currently working with the kits during the next few months. The volunteers have committed to tracking two of their hives every two weeks. After each testing session, the committee will send out a survey to accumulate data about the volunteer’s experience.

The feedback will be used to fine-tune the manual and components of the ADK. Each beta kit has a unique combination of items. Some kits have large magnifiers, some have small. Some kits have silver queen markers, while others have orange. The goal is to find out which products are the best products for beekeepers to use to help in monitoring and tracking the progress and health of the hive throughout the year. By monitoring your hive, you can more easily notice if there are subtle changes occurring in the colony between your inspections. Effective monitoring can help prevent colony loss by providing the beekeeper the tools to make decisions about colony health before the colony is doomed.

What’s the expression? “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Thanks to the ADK Committee, and the dedicated volunteer beta testers, the OSBA Apiary Diagnostic Kit is moving toward being available to beekeepers by the OSBA Fall Conference.
Pollinator Stewardship Council-Medina County Beekeepers-OSBA
OEEF Grant Update

Two of the three locations that received grant monies are currently providing healthy forage for area honey bees and other pollinators. The third location should be in “production” by later this year.

The property in Wadsworth is located in an office property surrounded by a residential neighborhood. The business owner created beds throughout the property in order to plant the habitat, rather than a large open area that might not be appropriate for the residential setting. The beds are a-buzz with a variety of pollinators, including honey bees.

The acreage at the Dayton VA, photographed below, has continued to morph into a variety of plants and color schemes throughout this year. This field will provide healthy, seasonal forage throughout the year for the lucky pollinators who live nearby.
Once again OSBA will host a fun and educational outreach pavilion at the Ohio State Fair. The multi-day extravaganza provide the general public a host of different beekeeping stations where they can learn about the importance of honey bees.

Along with bee beards, observation hives, display apiary area, and vendor areas, the American Honey Queen, Kim Kester, will be a guest presenter.

OSBA provides funding for the OSBA Pavilion which includes supporting the Honey Contests at the Ohio State Fair.

Equipment donations for the beeyard provided by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, Conrad Hive and Honey, Dadant, Honey Run Apiaries, and Mann Lake.

Tentative Pavilion Schedule

Sun., July 31  Browse through a replica of an actual beeyard and view pollinator plants.
Exhibitors: Sara Bee Pure Honey, Daniel Surina Honey, Bee Apothecary and Circa Heirloom Seeds.

Mon., Aug. 1
10-11 a.m. and 3-4 p.m.: The American Honey Queen demonstrates beauty treatments using honey and hive products.
11-12:30 – The Honey Queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell will take you on a tour of a beeyard
12:30 – The All-Ohio State Fair Band visits the pavilion and plays musical selections
1 p.m. and 4 p.m. - Watch Barry Conrad place live bees around his face to form a “bee beard”

Exhibitors : Bee Apothecary, Daniel Surina Honey and Heartland Honey Bee

Tues. Aug. 2
10-11 a.m. and 3-4 p.m.- Learn how to make nutritious strawberry and banana smoothies using honey.
11-12:30 - Explore the OSBA beeyard with the Honey Queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell.
1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Watch beekeeper Nina Bagley open up a live beehive and show you the bees, pollen and honey.

Exhibitors : Daniel Surina Honey and Bee Apothecary.

Wed., Aug. 3
10-11 a.m. and 3-4 p.m.- Watch the Honey Queen demonstrate beauty techniques using common products from the hive.

11-12:30 p.m. - Explore the OSBA’s beeyard with the Honey queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell.
1-2 p.m. - Mark Cameron of Ramar Lane Honey Bee Farm will talk on Homeopathic Bee Venom Therapy.
2-3 p.m. Enjoy photos with the honey queen or the life-size beekeeper and honey bee cut-outs.
4-5 p.m. - Watch beekeeper Nina Bagley show you the bees, pollen and honey inside a working hive.

Exhibitors : Daniel Surina Honey and Circa Heirloom Seeds

Thurs. Aug. 4
10-11 a.m. – and 3-4 p.m. Watch the Honey Queen from demonstrate beauty techniques using products from the hive.
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Explore the OSBA’s with the Honey Queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell.
1-2 p.m. - Watch beekeeper Nina Bagley show you the bees, pollen and honey inside a working hive.
4 p.m. - Explore the inside of a real live bee hive! Come early for the best seat!

Exhibitors: “Daniel Surina Honey, Circa Heirloom Seeds and Charlene Gammel with “Everything Bees!”

Fri., Aug. 5
10- 11– and 3– 4 p.m. Learn how to make nutritious strawberry and banana smoothies using honey. Samples while they last!

11-12:30 Tag along with the American Honey Queen and (Continued on page 12)
veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell and learn how to become a beekeeper. Yes, there are classes available throughout Ohio!

1:00-2:00 and 4:00 – 5:00 Watch longtime beekeeper Arnold Crabtree don a beard of real live bees! Thousands of them. Come early for the best seat.

2:00-2:30 Photo opportunities with the honey queen

Exhibitors: Daniel Surina Honey and Circa Heirloom Seeds

Sat. Aug. 6
10:00 - 11:00 – and 3-4 p.m.: Watch the Honey Queen demonstrate beauty techniques using common products from the hive.

11:00 - 12:30 - Tag along with the American Honey Queen honey and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell in a model bee yard and learn how to become a beekeeper.

1:00-2:00 and 4:00 – 5:00 Watch Arnold Crabtree place thousands of bees around his neck to form a bee beard.

2:00-2:30 Pictures with the Honey Queen and bees.

Exhibitors: Daniel Surina Honey, Circa Heirloom Seeds and Peggy Garnes Honey

Sun., Aug. 7
11:00 - 12:30 – Stroll along with the American Honey Queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell through a model bee yard and learn how to become a beekeeper.

1:00-2:00 Bee Beard demonstration featuring Arnold Crabtree

2:00-2:30 Pictures answer questions

3:00 - 4:00 Stop by and ask your questions about honey bees and beekeeping.

Exhibitors: Sara Bee Honey, Daniel Surina Honey and Circa Heirloom Seeds
Located just 10 minutes west of Atlantic City, this year’s presenters include James Frazier and Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Jeff Pettis, Medhat Nasr, Maryann Fraizer, 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 camp sites 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.

For more information: http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2016.html
Support OSBA 4-H Partnership Program by Shopping at Amazon.com

You can help the Ohio State Beekeepers Association raise money to support 4H and education for young beekeepers just by doing something you do already. When you shop at Amazon.com, using the following link, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. We will use any funds generated from your purchases to support our programs for 4H beekeepers and provide education for young beekeepers! Feel free to share this link will all your friends and family and raise even more money to support the next generation of beekeepers.

http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/amazon

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No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

Beekeeping is thirsty work with swarms, warm weather, and busy times at the apiary. Staying hydrated is important. Its easy when you have a delicious and easy beverage waiting for you. My Sodastream earns its keep...but none of those syrups with citric acid, coloring, sugars, etc. Here's a great home-made ginger simple syrup...think of subbing in your favorite fruit...or even a coffee concentrate...

**Honey Simple Syrup with Ginger**

1/2 c. honey  
1/2 c. water  
2 inches of fresh gingerroot, medium chop

Add to sauce pan and cook over medium heat for about 15 minutes. Let cool. Strain out ginger. Use about 2 T per glass. Put the rest in the fridge till you need it. Would be great added to a sorbet punch...or even something more adult.

Serve with a sprig of rosemary, basil, or mint

Simple, tasty, and so refreshing!!
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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I don’t run out and buy the most recent electronic product that comes on the market.

However, I was intrigued by something I heard in a presentation about using your cellphone’s camera as a microscope. Really?

So, I went out to Amazon (OSBA Amazon Smiles wasn’t available yet), and ordered a few lenses that can clip on to my cell-phone.

I was impressed with how almost intuitively easy it was to use the lenses. I haven’t tried to look for Nosema spores yet, but let me tell you, the photos, even on my old cellphone, are pretty remarkable.

Check out the photos on pages: 14 and 20.
Summer Monitoring—Handling Root Causes

Alex Zomchek

My lawn is home to a large sycamore tree which over the years has had roots emerging at the surface for tens of yards around its considerable base. Mowing the lawn has become something of a minefield. Unwilling to face this growing nemesis again this spring necessity finally met-invention-met-seasonal-timing.

Using an axe I chopped both ends of the exposed root strands and with the still wet soil I was able to easily extract all the roots leaving me elated for a job well done, but also irritated that I had not had this epiphany much earlier. This happens all too often in beekeeping.

June 20th marks the first day of summer. Ironically, here in Ohio, it also generally signals the end of the major nectar flows. In days of yore this prompted honey extraction followed by some general apiary resource management chores. And aside from an errant fall flow your honey season was over.

In more recent years the start of summer has evolved into treating (or not!) for pests and diseases. And most recently, this has evolved into first monitoring for pests and diseases, and then treating (or not) accordingly using some integrated pest management (IPM) program.

These incremental beekeeping improvements were born out of necessity with the advent of mites and in the face of mounting hive mortalities. We are all looking for that silver bullet to elevate our newer beekeeping woes. “Monitoring” defined as changing beekeeping behavior to regularly address colony conditions i.e. learning when and what to look for; and following up with appropriate timed responses is the key to significantly reducing unacceptably high mortality levels.

Monitoring as a paradigm is starting to be addressed (see OSBA’s new roll out of the Apiary Diagnostic Kit) at the disease and pest level. But because it is June into July as you read this let me expand the definition of monitoring hive health to include queen performance and summer nutrition. And because of space limitations I am going to just touch on queen monitoring which is somewhat familiar to more beekeepers and spend my allotted space on nutrition monitoring which is less familiar.

An early warm spring, followed by extended cold and wet induced above average swarming this year. We find ourselves at this point with a menagerie of aging, overwin-tered queens; spring packaged queens; nucs queens, supersedere queens, and swarm queens. How are they doing?

Continued mild weather and intermittent rains have this year literally blossoming into an extended nectar season. With such field resources your queens have been able to prove (or more likely not!) their laying capacity. You must monitor for this and take appropriate actions (more on queen monitoring at a later date).

The impending summer heat and reduced rains will trigger the end of the nectar flows, and with it the end of the pollen flow. Unless you are blessed to be wedged next to alfalfa, buckwheat, or the “right” kind of soy bean, et.al. crops — your bees are about to enter the starvation season in most of Ohio where there is literally little to nothing out there in sufficient quantity to feed your bees for the next few MONTHS!

Your hive’s first response to a nectar dearth is to limit brood production. This is an important reaction as, for example, you don’t want to continue large summer populations and go into winter with 90,000+ bees in your hives.

This is not a precise operation and all too often we go into summer’s dearth with too many bees leading to a rapid consumption of honey/pollen stores. Aside: a tremendous amount of unrecorded colony robbing takes place mid-summer for this very reason.

Long before your bees starve out they suffer from malnutrition. A quick monitoring test is to remove a middle brood frame and observe the wetness or dryness of growing larva prior to being capped. Young larva should be suspended in a pool of royal jelly. Even older larva should glisten and appear moist. If this is not the case the dominoes start falling.

Starvation leads to malnutrition, which in turn leads to accelerated expressions of bacterial and viral pathogens. This why in part beekeepers that do not regularly monitor come to find in late summer hives with scant honey/pollen resources, dwindling populations, and sick bees.

By definition monitoring your bees for summer starvation will lead to appropriate and timely treatments. Feeding is

(Continued on page 19)
the solution. You can expand feeding to include: feeding for starvation (sugars); feeding for nutrition (proteins, vitamins, minerals); and feeding for stimulation (to induce summer wax, bee, etc. production).

Feed your bees as though it were Jan/Feb. where you are first keeping them from starving, and then looking to build your bees to peak hive population for Ohio’s early nectar flows. And as per spring stimulation, you will find you can push summer bees to make wax, make bees, and end up with bigger, healthier hive.

Monitoring as defined here has to do with introducing new, or modifying beekeeping behavior. Whether you are dealing with real tree roots or root-causes of hive mortality consider summer monitoring beyond pests and diseases. Do not put this off until you are exasperated. Look at egg production and consider queen replacement. Look at feeding. You will improve overall hive health, reduce mortality, be able to summer “push” your bees, and you will be in better shape for a possible Indian summer fall nectar flow and more successful overwintering.

(Continued from page 18)

Join OSBA Today—

OSBA works 24/7 for beekeepers.

Your $20 membership (less than 6 cents per day) supports activities and projects that benefit our beekeeping community.

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Association Corner

From Alex Zomchek—Miami Valley Region:

Greene County Beekeepers Association yearly Honey Harvest on July 9th will once again be a popular stop for families.

Warren County Beekeepers Association will meet Sunday, July 10th at 1 p.m. at the Lebanon Presbyterian Church at 123 N. East St. in Lebanon. Topic will be Varroa Mite Management. More updates available at the Warren County Beekeepers Ohio Facebook page.

From Mike Doseck—Top of Ohio:

Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association will not be having meetings during the month of July and August. There will be a field day again this year, July 9th, at Ray and Lynn Moellers with all activities yet to be determined, but to include requeening, varroa inspection, hive inspection, and sugar roll. August will be fair month with the Club making presentations at the Mercer and Auglaize County Fairs. Several Club members have volunteered to work at the Bee Tent for two days at the Ohio State Fair to represent GGLBA. September will resume regular Club meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. September is National Honey Month and GGLBA be setting up a display at St. Marys Community Library.

Club member Gentry Clark has created a honey bee quilt and donated it to the club. GGLBA will be selling raffle tickets during the next few months. If you are interested, please check out their Facebook page.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association continues to provide excellent educational opportunities at their meetings for beekeepers – Charlie Allen from U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife, Dan O’Hanlon, and Rodney Richardson from OSU BeeLab were recent guests.

On Sunday, June 26th MVBA participated in the Pollinator event at Aullwood Farm. Their booth was a popular stopping point for attendees. Pictured from left: Vickie Bowman, President; Al Tuttle, Amy Margolin, Vice-President.

From Dwight Wilson and Mike Soboleski—Maumee Valley Region:

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association will hold their Field Day, entitled “Next Year’s Queens Start Now” on July 9. Other educational stations include Hive Inspection, Checking Mite County, Nosema, Re-queening Hives, and oxalic Acid Vaporizer Application. The day will finish up with a potluck.

Pictured above: Peggy Garnes helping out during grafting.

NWOBA’s next meeting is in September.

The Maumee Valley Beekeepers are looking forward to a busy and productive summer. At the next meeting the club will host Mike Gardner from Gardner Apiaries. Gardner Apiaries is one of the major package bee producers in the country. Mike’s talk will be about his company and what goes into making packages. In July the clubs annual summer picnic/potluck will take place at Roger Meyer’s (President) apiaries on Saturday July 16th. Looking ahead our August meeting is a field trip to see a Flow Hive in operation, September preparing for winter, October our annual honey tasting, and November quest speaker Terry Lieberman-Smith, Vice President of OSBA, talking about how to make lip and hand balms.

The club will again have a booth at the Lucas County Fair. The dates are July 12-17th. The booth will be hosted everyday by different club members. In August the club will be represented at the Wood County Fair with Mike Soboleski hosting a booth on August 6th. These are great opportunities to bring beekeeping to the community. The club will also participate at the Toledo Metroparks Bug Fest held August 20th at Secor Metropark.

(Continued on page 24)
**Association Corner (Continued from page 23)**

**From Jason Bosler—Crossroads Region:**

The Tuscarawas Beekeepers Association have just completed Nosema detection training with Barb Bloetscher and are in preparation for their annual Field day on 6-11.

The 62 South Beekeepers held a Spring Meeting with Isaac Barnes who spoke about his operation and the some different techniques to prevent swarming, how he makes splits and the importance of treating for Varroa mites, this was held at the Abe Mast home in Millersburg on May 10th.

Some of the area Amish groups prepared for the Farm Family Field days held June 16th. The great line up of speakers included; Beginner Beekeeping with Ray Wirt, Flowers for your bees with Judy Clegg, John Grafton will give a talk called “all about Honey Bees” and Marlin Miller talked about “beekeeping equipment and his bee operation”. The event was held at 927 US RT 62 Wilmot, Oh from 9am-4pm.

**From Peggy Garnes and Richard Manley—Western Reserve Region:**

Portage County Beekeepers Association membership have updated their bylaws. The update not only provides many new options for the club regarding insurance and tax exempt status including a potential to join OSBA’s affiliation program but also provides clearer and more encompassing guidance for both the membership as well as the board.

The Geauga County Beekeepers Association Field Day was held May 21 and hosted by the Case Western Reserve University SquireValley & Valley View Farm. Dr. Ana Locci (Farm Director) welcomed the 84 members in attendance and introduced them to the “New” Honey House and Teaching Lab.

Michele Colopy began the field day with a session on Pollinator Stewardship and Sustainability. Ms. Peggy Garnes wrapped up the day’s event with her session on Spring Management. Various sessions on Package Installation, Hive Inspection, “Making a Split”, the Ins and Out of a Dead Out, and Queen Rearing completed the full day of education and learning.

On May 21st, the Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association had is Annual Field Day Conference at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds with featured speaker Tim Moore, former Lorain County Bee Inspector, and Keynote Speaker, Ross Conrad. The day also featured Bee Yard activities with Denzil St. Clair of Queen Right Colonies. Over 100 participants enjoyed a fun and educational event.

GCBA’s June meeting featured author and editor, Kim Flottum on the subject of honey bee nutrition. It was very informative and members left with a better understanding of what and when bees may need supplemental feedings and when the bees are bringing enough food for optimum brood production and hive health.

Also, make sure to come and see GCBA at the Cuyahoga County Fair in Berea, Ohio August 8-14, 2016 at the Bee Barn. They have a large permanent window display hive and do a nightly honey extraction demonstration in the professionally installed permanent extractor room.

Come and visit the Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association booth in the Commercial Building at the Ashtabula County Fair. The fair dates are August 9—14 in Jefferson, Ohio. 10Am—10PM.

The most beautiful 70 degree weather on June 4th ushered in the 22nd annual Lorain County Beekeepers Field Day, held at Queen Right Colonies.

A large crowd of beekeepers upwards of 250 filled the classes throughout the day. Rich Wieske gave a great presentation on Advanced Natural Beekeeping. A very knowledgeable speaker with lots of wisdom and experience to share.

Field events also included Dave Roush who was kind enough to come up from Morrow Co. Beekeepers and teach a class on the use and understanding of the Oxalic acid treatment. A Demonstration in the East field was created the night before to show how Pheromones work in conjunction with Queen and workers.

Children’s class was held with a 2 Deep Miniature beehive taught by one of the students, Mr.Holden Harker might have been pushing 10 years old. Certainly a Keynote Speaker of the future!

And last but certainly not least our LCBA member Humble-bee graced us all with her presence, moving through the crowd of old and young, English and Amish alike giving everyone a smile!

On June 20th, Medina County Beekeepers Association held a Pollinator evening at the A.I. Root Pollinator Garden. Informational tables were staffed by OSU Extension, OSBA, Pollinator Protection, and others.

(Continued on page 25)
From Tom Rathbun—Erie Basin:

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association had a honeybee presentation on April 12th at Bowling Green University Firelands Campus in Huron Ohio, members answered a lot of questions on honey bee life and participates found the information very educational and interesting. On April 17th, the club again gave a presentation on Honeybee life, at Corso’s Nursery in Sandusky, Ohio.

On April 24th, again the club participated in the Earth Day Presentation at Osborn Metro Park in Huron Ohio, again the club had a lot of interested people ask questions on honey bee life. The observation hive was also a big hit at all three events.

On June 6th, the SRVBA will have their monthly meeting, a potluck dinner will be had with a guest speaker demonstrating candle making with bees wax.

Richland Area Bee Club Association hosted their annual Field Day at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield Ohio from noon til 4:00 p.m. with a cookout potluck, and hands-on demonstrations.

Black Fork Bee Club gave a demonstration, on May 16th, for the area Home Schooled Children. Members shared information about the importance of honey bees and answered questions from parents and children.

From Marishka Wile and Chris Dresel—Ohio Valley:

Adams County Beekeepers Association: Beekeeping season is in full swing in Adams County and the ACBA members are holding excellent meetings to share information and build fellowship. ACBA sponsored a Youth Scholarship program and 3 recipients are well on their way in becoming beekeepers. Chase Thompson, LaRanda Piatt, and Joshua Burns have hives, bees, beekeeping equipment as well as mentors provided by the association. These young beekeepers provide an update on their status and the bee’s progress at each ACBA meeting.

The April 21st meeting covered a lot of ground in preparing all members for the upcoming season. A detailed Q&A session was chaired by the club leadership and provided great information to all participants.

On May 5th, Kenny Moles, Club President, visited the studios of C103 (103.1FM) to broadcast information about the association’s to the listeners in the area.

The May 21st meeting had 2 guest speakers, both from the Brown County Beekeepers. Gary Keuffer presented a briefing on different types of beehives. In addition to the Langstroth hives, he discussed and demonstrated advantages and disadvantages of the Top Bar, Horizontal, Warre, and Improved Top Bar hives. Chris Dresel provided an overview of the safe use of an oxalic acid vaporizer to control varroa mites.

The association is planning a field trip to a member’s apiary to view and discuss Top Bar and Horizontal hives. This trip was postponed due to foul weather, and is currently being re-scheduled.

The June 16th meeting guest was Clay Guthrie, Branch Manager of Dadant – Frankfort KY. The July meeting will be slipped one week to accommodate the Adams County Fair, which runs from the 10th to the 16th of July. The July meeting will be held on the 28th of July.

On August 18th, Kevin Hale, Hale’s Honey – Wellington, KY will lead a discussion on Prepping Hives for Winter. Kevin is a dynamic speaker with a wealth of beekeeping experience and knowledge that he shares freely.

The Adams County Beekeepers hold their meetings every third Thursday of the month at the Bible Baptist Church on SR 41, just south of West Union, OH.

For more information about the Adams County Beekeepers Association, find them on Facebook.

Spring for the Brown County Beekeepers Association was a busy and educational season. In April, Dwight Wells was guest speaker.

BCBA made several appearances at local garden centers to educate the public about the importance of bees and how to include a wide variety of beneficial plants in bee-friendly landscapes. On April 23rd and 24th the club was at Grant’s Farm and Greenhouses for the spring open house. Club members received many questions from the public about the current state of bees, and answered just as many about starting hives.

Many BCBA members attended the SWOBA conference at The Oasis in April as well as a bee school given by one of the BCBA members at her organic farm in May. There was also timely and informative question and answer session in May given by the club’s Education Coordinator, Gary Keuffer, on making bee vacuums.

On May 24th, the BCBA removed a large, established hive from the Groesbeck Lodge on the grounds of the Cincinnati Nature Center. This home is on the National (Continued from page 24)

(Continued on page 26)
Register of Historic Places. The hive was removed while the lodge was under renovations for the safety of those doing restoration work. The removal of this hive was recorded so that the Nature Center can educate the public about how bees can be removed and relocated without harm.

On June 4th, the club was at the Goodseed Nursery and Garden Center to once again answer questions from the public on bee related topics. Club President, Chris Dresel gave a presentation on Honeybees, Pollination and You.

The June 14th meeting will host Beth Wilson, the Pulaski County Horticulture Agent in Kentucky. Ms. Wilson will give a presentation titled Planting for Bees. She will talk about beneficial plants from early spring to late fall and will offer advice on including these plants into a gardener’s landscape.

Steve Purdon, owner of Licking River Honey Farms in Cynthiana, Kentucky will discuss retail and wholesaling of bee products, as well as pollinating services on July 12th. Mr. Purdon will cover a broad range of bee related topics mastered from his many years of beekeeping experience. On August 9th, the branch manager of the Frankfort, Kentucky Dadant Bee Supplies, Clay Guthrie, will discuss Preparing Hives for Fall and Winter.

The June, July and August meeting will be held at the Southern Hills Career Technical Center at 9193 Hamer Rd, Georgetown, OH 45121.

Fair month in Brown County is September. The club meeting on the 13th will be in preparation for the fair which will run from September 26th to October 1st. BCBA will once again have a large booth staffed by its members to educate the public about bees and to sell honey.

For more information about the Brown County Beekeepers Association, visit www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org

The Highland County Beekeepers Association holds its meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 119 Governor Foraker Place in Hillsboro. This is an open forum type meeting where members are encouraged to bring their questions to be answered by the club’s veteran beekeepers. The membership is small making interaction more personal and tailored. You can visit HCBA online at http://www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/

From Jeff Gabric—Heart of Ohio:

Knox County Beekeepers Association held their first bee yard meeting at Jeff Gabric’s new apiary location near Bangs, Ohio. Members and guests were treated to hotdogs and hamburgers and marked about 20 queens in the process. There was a demonstration top bar hive and some 2 queen system hives being looked through.

East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association sponsored Dan O’Hanlon as their speaker. The theme of his talk was the value in rearing and buying local queens; they are acclimated to Ohio’s forage and seasons. June Glen Needham from Dept. of Entomology Ohio State gave an excellent talk as always.

Morrow County Area Honey Bee Association had a great meeting in May with and equipment build meeting with plenty of ideas shared.

Urban Beekeepers of Central Ohio had Janine Harris Degritz as their June speaker. Janine lives in Columbus Ohio and currently stewards 7 hives of honey bees in both urban and rural environments. She and her husband have been beekeeping for the past 9 years and are stewarding a variety of hives using natural and sustainable practices.

The Highland County Beekeepers Association holds its meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 119 Governor Foraker Place in Hillsboro. This is an open forum type meeting where members are encouraged to bring their questions to be answered by the club’s veteran beekeepers. The membership is small making interaction more personal and tailored. You can visit HCBA online at http://www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/
There is growing interest in the relationship between pollinators and field crops grown in Ohio. Some of this interest is driven by an increased appreciation for bees and the substantial contributions they make to agricultural production of specialty crops such as apples, cucumbers and melons. However, there is also a growing awareness among soybean farmers that small yield increases, possibly as much as 15% in some situations, can be achieved when abundant pollinators are present (de O. Milfont et al. 2013).

On the other hand, beekeepers are beginning to appreciate soybeans as a possible mid-summer nectar source for bees. In a survey of “summer” honey we performed at the OSBA Fall Meeting in 2014, we found soybean pollen in 47% of the samples brought in by Ohio beekeepers.

The soybean-honey bee relationship is potentially very important for both farmers and beekeepers. In 2016, there were 82.2 million acres of soybeans planted in the U.S., and nearly 4.7 million acres in Ohio. This comprises 17% of the total land in our state. However, soybeans are not always visited by honey bees for reasons that may include the soybean cultivar, weather, soil nutrients, and competition from other nectar sources (Robacker et al. 1983).

To assess the prevalence of soybean foraging we set up a colony housed in an observation hive at Honeyrun Farm near Williamsport, OH (Thank you to Isaac and Jayne Barnes for hosting our colonies!). On the afternoon of July 28, 2015, a hot clear day when soybeans were blooming, we recorded two hours of video of bees performing the waggle dance on the comb nearest the hive’s entrance. Using the methods developed by Karl von Frisch (1967) and refined by Schurch and colleagues (2013), we manually analyzed the recorded waggle dances using computer software (Figure 1) and plotted the areas in which bees were foraging on a map (Figure 2).

We found that the majority of foraging on this afternoon was occurring less than 1 mile from the hive. A few foraging hot spots are clearly visible on the map. The bees were foraging northeast of the apiary on an unmowed field, likely filled with clover, behind Westfall High School. The soybean field to the southwest was also highly attractive to bees. It’s interesting that there were many other soybean fields near the apiary, but only the field to the southwest was sufficiently attractive to elicit waggle dancing.

Based on this preliminary analysis, we have evidence that bees do recruit to some, but not all, soybean fields. Understanding why one soybean field is more attractive than others deserves more research. We are planning additional dance analysis in summer 2016 to begin to tease apart the effects that soybean variety, date, weather and other factors have on soybean attractiveness to honey bees.
noon of 7/28/15. The radius of the categorized map is constrained to 1.25 miles from the hive location. Areas of high foraging, as reported by waggle dancing bees, are colored red.


The Value of Beekeeping Classes to Local Beekeeping Associations

Bill Starrett

Clubs and associations which exist to advance a particular hobby or subject of interest come into existence and die out as regularly as breathing in and breathing out. The demise of a club is usually due to stagnation...in growth (numerically and educationally), lack of sustaining success, and eventually participation. I believe a regular flow of new members is the only means of keeping a club alive year after year.

Beekeeping has experienced a surge of interest in recent years due to the plight of the honey bee and all pollinators, but keeping new beekeepers in the hobby has been problematic. After teaching beginning beekeeping classes for 20 years it has been my experience that 90% or more of new beekeepers quit beekeeping within 3 years and with them often goes the survival of beekeeping clubs. For some they discover that they are allergic to stings so the better part of wisdom dictates they give up the hobby. But for most it is after a couple failed attempts to keep their bees alive at significant expense they give up. One can hardly blame them because the initial expense in becoming a beekeeper is no small matter and the learning curve much larger now than it was in previous generations due to new pests and diseases, their remedies, and the time to takes to gain hands on experience. When beginners see beekeeping only as a money pit and they experience no success they frequently give up.

I have discovered that there are many “wanna be” beekeepers in our communities. For many their interest has been pricked by the experience of a swarm landing in their neighbor’s yard, a program seen on television, or a magazine article about bees or beekeeping. Not knowing how or when to begin, where to buy beekeeping equipment, or from whom to ask questions can be a big obstacle to a prospective beekeeper wanting to enter beekeeping.

A good beginning beekeeping class answers many of the questions that prospective beekeepers ask about starting beekeeping: what equipment is needed (and not needed), where equipment can be bought, how to get bees, how to get answers to questions and help when there are problems? It includes bee behavior, genetics, reproduction and life cycle, biology, management issues, needs, hazards, diseases and pests, many of the “how tos” in beekeeping, etc. infinitum. The beginning beekeeping class serves as the entry portal for the local bee association, laying the foundation of beekeeping knowledge and drawing members into the club’s circle of influence. As such it is a primary recruiting tool for supplying new members that helps guarantee club growth and encourages participation. Without ongoing beekeeping classes beekeeping clubs may be candidates for extinction.
Extreme Management

Roy Hendrickson

I first related the following incident to newsletter editor Terry Smith sometime in 2012, not long after I started writing for OSBA. It's been a topic of casual conversation ever since. Terry thought the narrative worthy of a future newsletter article. I was somewhat reluctant, reasoning that it wasn't a management practice I would recommend, or one a reader would likely adopt. However, Terry was persistent. So here it is a tale of angst and utter amazement. (The title Extreme Management is a bit misleading) The only thing extreme about the management I describe below was its proximity to the start of the main honey flow. Were the honey flow five or six weeks away this would have been a perfectly normal management procedure, although I would have removed the excess brood and bees in stages as opposed to all at once.

The incident recounted a management strategy that I applied to a single production apiary a little over twenty years ago, in May of 1996 to be exact. In order to tell the story accurately it's necessary to relate a little background or lead in information. In this area 1993 was a disastrous year on two separate accounts, poor wintering due to ongoing Tracheal mite issues, and lousy weather during the main honey flow. However, the following two seasons 1994 and 1995 produced bumper honey crops. Somewhat amazing when you take into account that the local bee populations were by then transitioning from the latter stages of the Tracheal mite era, into the early destructive phase of the Varroa era. As evidence, several of my bee yards suffered a major Varroa collapse in late August and early September of 1995. This event changed the direction and focus of my beekeeping career. I immediately realized that if I were to have any chance of controlling Varroa long term, a reduction in colony numbers would be necessary. To that end, I decided to gradually eliminate my least productive locations. The following spring, dead or very weak colonies were not replaced. Survivor colonies in the less productive locations were either moved (when practical) to replace deadouts in other yards, or they served as donor colonies to that same end. And that brings me to the gist of the story.

The Brandt Road yard (not the real name) was the smallest of the twenty plus yards I was operating at the time. While holding only ten colonies, this yard had always been one of my better producing locations. It was my top producing location (in pounds per colony) in both the 1994 and 1995 seasons. The only drawback was the location itself. Due to an unavoidable northern exposure, this was a very cold yard. It was always the last yard to be worked each spring, and generally speaking, it had the latest honey flow. According to the 1996 yard records, I rated the yard in average condition coming out of the 1995-96 winter. Of the ten colonies, four had died, one overwintered in average condition, and the remaining five colonies all came through in excellent shape. (Average in that the five strong colonies cancelled out the four dead ones)

The initial brood work occurred on May 14th. Instead of moving in replacement colonies, I opted to restart the four deadouts with brood and bees from one of the about to be discontinued yards. My normal practice was to restart deadouts using three frames of brood and plenty of extra adult bees. However, since the main honey flow was no more than three weeks away, I decided to double the startup strength to six frames of brood and extra bees. (Note the addition of 24 frames of brood in the accompanying yard record) The colony that had overwintered in average condition was inspected and left to build.

The five strong colonies were another matter. By this time they had grown into real monsters! They were totally out of control! When I separated the brood boxes on the first colony, I inadvertently destroyed some 20 to 30 recently capped swarm cells. This colony was undoubtedly going to swarm, today! The same was probably true for the other four colonies. Picture a huge swarm, hanging way up, well out of reach. Now multiply that by five! That was the angst I referred to earlier. What should I do? At that point I sort of lost my temper. I knew these colonies were very strong, and I was mad at myself for not addressing the situation sooner! My next coherent (Continued on page 32)
thoughts were “no way, that’s not going to happen”, and “I’ll fix you, you little ------”. I reasoned that the best way to prevent the others from swarming before I could weaken them was to separate their brood boxes as well. This I did, and as expected, all four were in the same condition; they had several capped swarm cells on almost every frame!

Fortunately, in anticipation of a somewhat lesser management crisis, I had provisioned the truck with plenty of empty drawn comb and the necessary brood transferring paraphernalia. For the next couple of hours I proceeded to trash or obliterate the swarming potential of those five colonies. I didn’t mess around. I removed a total of nineteen frames of capped and/or emerging brood. (Four frames each from four colonies and three frames from the fifth) These were full frames of older capped and emerging brood. Frames that contained open brood, pollen, or honey were moved to the outside. Dark, empty drawn combs replaced the brood frames in the center of each broodnest. In addition to removing the capped brood and adhering bees, save for the two outer frames, I shook all the bees off the remaining frames in the upper brood box.

What about the queens? I made no attempt to locate any of the queens. That would have been virtually impossible considering the size of the adult populations. (Colonies that are preparing to swarm stop feeding the queen in order to reduce her body size, thereby allowing her to accompany the first swarm. Queens so treated act somewhat similar to virgin queens; they often run, or exhibit a flighty or nervous behavior) Instead, I looked for any rapid or erratic movement that might indicate the presence of a queen. No queens were found. In the process of scanning for the queen I destroyed any obvious queen cells. I made no attempt to locate or destroy cells in the lower brood box. (By removing most of the older brood along with a large number of house bees I temporarily eliminated the swarming impulse. As a result, a portion of the returning field bees would be forced to revert to nursing duties, and the queen would resume normal egg production within a day or two. Any remaining queen cells would in time be removed by the nurse bees)

The enclosed record sheet will allow you to follow the yard activity throughout the season. I removed the queen cages from the four startup colonies on May 18th, in addition I added a super to each of the five equalized colonies. Six days later on the 24th I supered the startup colonies, and checked to make sure I hadn’t inadvertently removed the queen from any of the equalized colonies. (I looked for eggs or young larvae in the dark replacement combs in the center of the upper brood boxes) On May 31st I removed an additional frame of older capped brood from each of the equalized colonies, and supered as necessary. The record sheet details the general honeyflow conditions along with the supering and crop removal dates throughout the remainder of the season.

The normal honey flow pattern for this area consists of a series of short blooming plants distributed over a four or five week period. The main flow generally starts around the first of June with the onset of the blackberry and black locust bloom. Poison ivy and the sumacs, along with the dogwoods start blooming around the middle of the month. A wide variety of clovers are also in bloom during this time period, but due to our high soil acidity very little nectar is produced. Basswood is the last major blooming plant prior to the onset of the mid-summer dearth period. (Mid July through August) The summer dearth ends with the Goldenrod which generally starts to produce nectar in early September. The season finishes up with the asters in late September and early October, providing the weather remains warm enough to initiate nectar production.

The honey flow in 1996 was somewhat different. Something, I have no idea what, started producing nectar in early August. By mid-month the flow was going strong. This continued right into the beginning of the goldenrod flow in early September. A line from the 1996 bloom record sheet details the situation, 9/5 — Good flow from mid August until present, many yards jammed, light honey, source unknown. Whatever the source, this mystery flow was a major contributor to the overall 1996 crop.

I started removing the spring honey in the Brandt road yard on August 19th. (The bees were removed via the use of a fume board and blower) My procedure at the time was to remove all the supers that didn’t contain brood. Supers that contained brood were placed above an excluder to allow the brood to emerge. Due to time constraints these supers were generally not removed until the end of the season. Occasionally additional supers would be added to catch any late or unexpected flow, 1996 being a classic example.

The seasonal production statistics were as follows. A total of 68 supers were supplied throughout the season. Of the 68 supers supplied, 62 were jammed full, so full that the bees had drawn and filled burr comb in the bee space between the capped frames of honey. The remaining 6 supers were roughly half full, containing approximately 20 lbs each. The total crop weighted in at 2600 lbs, for an average of 260 lbs per colony! One colony produced 365 lbs, 2 produced 340 lbs each, and 2 others produced 280 lbs: the poorest colony produced 160 lbs; the remaining 4 colonies produced 795 lbs between them. This was far and away the best single yard colony average of my career. I would like to credit my superior beekeeping skill, but reality dictates otherwise. It was nothing more than random (dumb) luck. For whatever reason Mother Nature was in a beneficial mood and I was fortunate enough to be on the receiving end!

(Continued on page 33)
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. 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.

George Earl Taylor, 74, of Sunbury passed away early Thursday morning June 9, 2016 at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus.

He was born September 21, 1941 in Ironton, Ohio to the late Forest Taylor and Bessie (Richardson) Dorfe and he graduated from Harding High School. He married Carol Smith, with whom he had two daughters; they later divorced. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force and was stationed at Port Hueneme, CA for 4 years and was a Small Arms Expert Marksman.

He owned 3 bars in Santa Barbara before moving back to Sunbury in 1984. He owned Kintz Brothers in Delaware and Village Tavern in Waldo where he met his wife Susan Fisher. His true passion was bees and operating as Waldo Ohio Apiaries, where he specialized in package bees, beehives, honey, and pollen. He fed the world one bee at a time. A special thank you to Hardeman Apiaries of Georgia for their support through the years.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 16 years Susan (Immel) Taylor; two daughters, one stepson and stepdaughter, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren; brother Arthur Taylor of Marion; sister Verla Meyers of Marion.

Burial was in Fairview Memorial Park Cemetery with military honors provided by the Delaware County Veterans Association at graveside.

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1996 Brandt Road Yard Records

5/14 – E/B, Add 24 F/B to start 4 cols, Remove 19 F/B from 5 very strong cols

5/18 – Remove Q cages, 1s/5cols (5)

5/24 – All weakened cols Q/right, 1s/4cols (9) Flow 7-10 days away

5/31 – Removed additional 5 F/B from weakened cols, 1s/6cols (15)

6/9 – 1s/7cols (22) some flow

6/15 – 2s/1col – 1s/5cols (29) some flow past week

6/26 – 1s/9cols (38) Good flow past 10 days

7/5 – 1s/6cols (44) some flow, good crop to date

7/14 – 1s/9cols (53) excellent crop to date

8/19 – Remove 17 full supers w/o brood from 4 cols, 6 cols left to work

8/26 – Remove 19 full supers w/o brood, leave 17 w/brood above QX, 1s/4cols (21)

9/4 – 2s/1col-1s/9cols (32) excellent flow

10/5 – Remove all supers, 26 full, plus 6 partials (est. 20 lb ea.)

Legend: E/B, equalize brood and bees – F/B, frames of brood

1s/4cols, one super on each of four colonies, (9), total number of supers in yard

2s/1col-1s/9cols, two supers one colony, one super nine colonies (32) in yard

(Continued from page 32)
Editor’s Corner: Bees Are Not the Only Buzz-y Ones, Part 2

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Is it really July? It can’t be! These are comments that I hear not only from other beekeepers, but also from the voice in my head that keeps reminding me of all the items on my to-do list.

“Time, time, time, see what’s become of me” sings Simon & Garfunkel (or The Bangles, depending on your generation). I know that while OSBA has absorbed a lot of OSBA Executive Board member time, what’s become of it is really amazing in the scope of things.

In this quarter alone we prepared and applied for a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant. How difficult is that? Lots of paperwork, reading detailed government requirements, fine-tuning verbiage (over and over and over), creating accurate budgets and a final panel interview. OSBA was competing with 13 other groups (who had professional grant writers at their disposal) for the funding. The grant requests totaled over 1 million dollars while grant monies available was less than $500,000.

Last time we were awarded a grant, we were not a 501c3, so we had to work with (and pay) another organization to manage the funding. Now that we have our 501c3 classification, we can put all the funding towards the project. Another “win” for Ohio beekeepers.

So if we win the grant the work doesn’t stop there. There’s quarterly paperwork, mailings, production (of what you ask…..more to come), etc. This project is a huge undertaking for OSBA, and an incredible educational opportunity for all of Ohio beekeepers….and even beyond our state border.

OSBA set up the beta testing for the Apiary Diagnostic Kit to ensure that the manual and components live up to our expectations. This kit, and its availability to new-bees next year is part of the grant….along with traveling educators for local associations.

Along with working on the grant, we are also looking into expanding our popular OSBA 4-H partnership program to include urban/suburban youths who do not have 4-H available in their areas. We will need to create an evaluation rubric, advertising outreach, and put together more volunteers to review the candidates. One option to help fund the expanded programming is enrolling in Amazon Smiles. When customers order through Amazon’s AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. We are currently working on the paperwork and will let everyone know when they can join with OSBA in supporting the next generation of beekeepers.

Speaking of 4-H, we are working to re-vamp our calendar in order to provide OSBA 4-H Partnership information to the 4-H coordinators in a more timely manner. Feedback from participants is that they need the information the year before the sponsorship due to the timing of the 4-H program. We plan on having literature at the OSBA Pavilion at the Ohio State Fair this year to kick-off our promotion of the 2017 4-H program.

We have been asked to provide a judge for the Sr 4-H Beekeeping category. This will be the third year in a row that OSBA will provide judges. OSBA Representative Mike Doseck will be officiating at the beekeeping table.

Speaking of tables, OSBA’s tables were staffed by volunteers at the Pollinator Week events in Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Medina. We are buzzing all around the state sharing information about the importance of beekeeping.

The OSBA Pavilion at the Ohio State Fair, along with the Honey Contests, is yet another educational outreach program that takes volunteer commitments and has a positive impact across our state.

Our upcoming Fall Conference, which is organized and staffed by volunteers, provides beekeepers from around the state with great speakers, topics, contests, and a wide selection of vendors (so that you can build your equipment during the winter) for one low registration fee.

We’re already planning our New Beekeeper Outreach for 2017. This year alone we sent out over 1,000 Welcome Packets for new beekeepers who were taking Beginner Classes through local associations.

So where is all this leading? The other day a friend came over and we shared a glass of wine, snacks and great conversation. He and his 3 brothers are involved in many community groups. I sometimes think that with him, the term “six degrees of separation” should maybe be “two degrees” given that he knows so many people. I asked him about his community involvement and he said that he was raised to give back to the community. It is such a simple idea, but few of us act on that notion, or know where to start.

If you will, just for a minute….think of all that OSBA has accomplished for the beekeeping community without you……and think of all that we can accomplish with your help. Please contact me at: vice-president@OhioStateBeekeepers.org if you would like to contribute some of your skills and time to the Ohio beekeeping community.

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# 2016 Ohio State Beekeeper’s Association
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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 ongoing 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

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