Ohio Beekeeping
The Newsletter of
Ohio State Beekeepers Association

January 2017
Volume 6, Issue 1

A Celebration of Ohio Beekeeping

OSBA 4-H Partnership Program 2017

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association supports new young beekeepers through our 4-H Partnership Program. We are pleased to announce the winners of the OSBA 4-H Partnership Program. This year, thanks to additional donations by Mann Lake Ltd, and The Ohio Bee Box Company, we are able to extend our partnership program to include seven winners. Listed below are the winners, their sponsoring association, and their mentors.

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<th>4-H Student</th>
<th>Sponsoring Association</th>
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<td>David Ray</td>
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We realize that success of a new beekeeper is not reliant on the work of the student and money alone, but by the effort of the partnership. The 4H Partnership Program encourages participation of the guardian, 4H adviser, local association, and mentor. The committee members include: Tim Arheit, Mike Doseck, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Dan O’Callaghan, Sherylee Swartz, Marishka Wile, and Alex Zomchek.

Each of the scholarship winners will receive woodenware from Mann Lake Ltd for two complete medium ten frame hives, along with other supportive educational material and memberships, OSBA DVD, and ADK.

OSBA awarded USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant is a nationwide program that provides funding for groups who are enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops. This year a total of 693 projects were awarded funding through this program. Ohio was one of four states that received Specialty Crop Block Grant funds for honey bee projects. Other states with beekeeping related projects were California, Montana, and Texas.

OSBA received funding to provide a limited number of complimentary Apiary Diagnostic Kits (ADK) to new beekeepers. The grant also provides funding for instructors to give presentations to local beekeeping associations about the importance of monitoring and monitoring techniques.

See page 5 for more information about the kits and how to schedule one of the instructors for your club.
OSBA Affiliate Program—Helping Ohio Associations Become Stronger

OSBA 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 your association 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. Contact your OSBA Director or Representative for more details.
Survey Says…..

This fall OSBA created a first-ever online survey asking beekeepers for their feedback on a variety of beekeeping topics, plus seeking information about individual beekeepers in general. Thanks to the over 600 responses, OSBA will be able to develop specific programs that will meet the demands of Ohio beekeepers.

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the survey. Thanks to your input, we can build a stronger organization that is responsive to the needs of Ohio’s beekeeping.

If you did not fill out the 2016 survey, we will be offering you the opportunity to provide OSBA with feedback when we share another survey during 2017. Make sure you are on our email list! Go to www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/contact-us/join-our-mailing-list/

New FDA Rules Regarding Antibiotics Used to Control American Foulbrood

The FDA has made changes regarding the availability of certain antibiotics that beekeepers use to help control American Foulbrood. These changes took effect January 1, 2017. Our 2016 Beekeepers Survey showed that about 50% of all respondents were not aware of these new federal regulations.

Please visit our webpage for answer to many of your questions regarding the use of antibiotics. www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/ohio-fact-sheets/antibiotics-honey-bees/

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.

Richard Cordes
Vincent Jett
Danny Moore
Rick Moranz

Thomas Prieto
Sharon Riccio
William Riccio

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
♦ 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.
The Save The Honey Bee License Plate - What’s on Your Car?

This plate help bring public awareness to the importance of honey bees and beekeepers, and 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?

So What is an Apiary Diagnostic Kit?

One of the many questions that we keep hearing from new beekeepers is “what exactly am I looking for?” when they inspect their hives. That is a really good question. How can you identify pests and diseases, and keep track of the health of the hive if you do not know what to look for, and what tools to use.

The OSBA ADK (Apiary Diagnostic Kit) Committee developed a portable kit complete with tools and a full-color laminated field guide to help identify issues, and provide a tracking form for each hive visit. Our 50 intrepid volunteers put the kits through their paces this summer, and reported twice a month through an on-line survey. From their feedback the committee refined the kit contents along with the manual.

The kit contains: 5 gallon white bucket with lid, Fresnel Lens, Tweezer, Flashlight, LED Flashlight, Capping Scratcher, Sugar Shake Jar and Screen, Rubber band, Coffee Filters, Drone Comb Frame, Queen Marking Tube, Queen Marking Pen, Dry Erase Marker, Measuring Cup, Hive Beetle Blaster, Hive Beetle Jail, Microfiber Towel, and 34 page full color laminated spiral bound manual.

The goal is to increase beekeeper confidence in hive management by providing tools to help monitor and diagnose changes in the hive before they reach a critical stage and the hive dies.

We are setting up a special website page that will have links to treatments and any other beekeeping issues that arise during the beekeeping year.

We will also have a limited number of kits available for sale through our website and at conferences. If you were to create the kit from scratch, you would pay over $80 for just the kit contents, not including the laminated manual, or individual shipping charges.

The kit and manual will be available for purchase for a limited time at a special price of $49.99 (plus shipping) from our website, or $45 at the OSBA table at upcoming conferences. The manual, by itself, will be available on-line for $24.99 (free shipping), or $20 at the OSBA table.

We are taking advance orders starting Feb 1, with ship date of March 15.

www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org/adk
Specialty Crop Block Grant-- What it Means for Ohio Beekeepers

Applications Now Bee-ing Accepted - Applications for Traveling Speakers

As part of the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant, OSBA will be creating a PowerPoint presentation and handouts on the topic of "The Importance of Monitoring for Pests and Diseases." We will be working with a team of instructors to provide this presentation to local associations.

Over the next two years, the grant will fund the six instructors and their travel for a total of 30 presentations across the state (approx. 5 presentations per instructor). If your club would like to schedule a presentation, send your request to adk@OhioStateBeekeepers.org.

If you are interested in helping educate beekeepers across our state, and you meet the following criteria:

- A working knowledge of Power Point software, set-up, application, and presentation?
- Reliable transportation
- A current driver’s license
- Ability to drive at night
- Current car insurance
- A laptop computer with accessible ports to connect a projector
- A laptop computer with a current version of Power Point software program.
- Availability to attend a training session of all ADK Instructors
- Ability to personally transport presentation materials, lift up to 50 pounds, stand for at least one hour.
- Eligibility to work in the US, and eligible as an independent contractor for a federal grant funded project.
- Willingness to complete a W-9 as an independent contractor

Applications are available by contacting: adk@ohiostatebeekeepers.org. Applications must be submitted by February 10, 2017.

New Beekeepers -- Eligibility to Receive a Complimentary Apiary Diagnostic Kit

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant allows OSBA to provide up to 700 complimentary Apiary Diagnostic Kits to new Ohio beekeepers to help increase their monitoring skills.

Eligibility requirements for new Ohio beekeeper:

- Have taken a 2016 or 2017 beginner beekeeping class (if we have the class list from your instructor) or proof of class
- Proof of Apiary Registration
- Proof of Equipment Purchase
- Commitment to fill out short on-line monthly surveys throughout 2016/2017 regarding your hive visits

If you meet those prerequisites, then visit www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/adk to get information on how to apply for your complimentary kit. New beekeepers who sign up for the program will receive monthly reminders of apiary tasks to help keep them on track for a successful year.

Kits will be sent out after March 15, 2017.

Each kit contains easy to use tools to help monitor your hives, along with a full-color spiral bound and laminated step-by-step guide that includes helpful photos. Retail cost: $49.99
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The Ohio State Fair continues to evolve into a showcase for all things beekeeping and a major outreach opportunity for the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, and its mission to promote beekeeping to every corner of the state.

OSBA developed the pavilion six years ago with state fair officials who shared a mutual interest in raising awareness of Ohio beekeeping at a venue rooted in Ohio’s agriculture industry. Several thousand visitors stroll through the pavilion during the fair to view educational displays, hands-on exhibits, experience live bee demonstrations and hear expert presentations.

The efforts of OSBA to put the spotlight on honey bees, beekeeping, and the critical importance of pollination on such a large stage as the state fair takes a substantial financial commitment, and many dedicated volunteers.

The Ohio State Fair, one of the largest in the country in terms of attendance, has embraced OSBA’s efforts to develop exhibits and programming to acquaint the visiting public with honey bees and their value in agriculture, the food chain and nature. In addition, OSBA has re-vitalized the fair’s honey show by adding additional classes, and increasing premiums to draw more interest from around the state.

It takes more than 70 OSBA members to plan and staff the pavilion each year for the eight-day run.

Volunteers are key to the success of the pavilion, according to Nina Bagley, who chairs the OSBA’s Fair Committee. On most days, 5-8 volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to greet visitors, staff exhibits, and answer questions. Volunteers say the day is enjoyable and the conversations quite interesting with fair visitors who are in awe of the live bee displays.

“The people who sign up to volunteer have a contagious enthusiasm about beekeeping and a willingness to share their own experiences and insight,” said Bagley. “Our greatest reward is when visitors from previous years return to the pavilion so excited to tell us they took a beekeeping class and they’re now ‘one of us.’ We hear it every year and it’s a great moment.”

Other returning visitors like to talk about their success in starting pollinator gardens with the seeds they picked up in the pavilion. “We’re proud of the number of new beekeepers we recruit,” said Bagley, “but we explain you don’t need to be a beekeeper to help the bees. Gardeners are just as valuable.”

Beekeeping clubs around Ohio are encouraged to participate at the fair by choosing a day to “host” the pavilion using their own club members. It builds camaraderie among club members to share the day together, and the club can set up its own display at the fair. Tickets and parking passes are provided to volunteers.

The OSBA pavilion opens at Ohio State Fair on July 30, 2017 and runs for eight days through Aug. 6. Planning is underway and clubs and members who wish to participate should contact Nina or any of the other committee members: Zale Maxwell, Tina Bobek, Marishka Wile, Dwight Wells, Louise Adkins and David Crawford.

If your club has not participated in the past, please contact a committee member or OSBA officer to get more information.
OSBA Thanks the Testers of the Beta Apiary Diagnostic Kits (ADK)

The following volunteers received various versions of the OSBA ADKs this summer and provided the committee excellent feedback through the twice a month surveys, and emails.

Thanks to all the volunteer input, the OSBA ADK Committee made adjustments to both the kit contents and full-color laminated manual so future ADK users will have a tried- and- true monitoring and diagnostic kit.

Rob Abowitz  
Frances Abrams  
Tim Arheit  
James Aylsworth  
Kim Barkfelt  
David Benedict  
Annette Birt Clark  
Marianne Bishop  
Barb Bloetscher  
Daniel Bonham  
Veronica Briggs  
Karri Bruskotter  
Jeff Campbell  
Deb Castle  
Ann Cicarella  
Sue Donahue  
Mike Doseck  

Jerry Flexman  
David Foubert  
Michael Gammel  
Peggy Garnes  
Matt Henshen  
Melissa Hirn  
Steve Ingle  
Mike Jacquemin  
Andy Kawac  
Lauren Kiel  
Gayle Klaber  
Ben Kman  
Ronald Kollmorgen  
Paul Kosmos  
Joe Kovaleski  
Allyson May  
Josh Philipps  

Bobbi Pincus  
John Rose  
Travis Rutherford  
Joseph M. Saluke  
Patrick Scandlon  
Kim Skaggs  
Mike Smith  
Linda Stryker  
Ronald Stuke  
Brian Tobin  
Jon Tuttle  
Jamie Walters  
David Williamson  
Dwight Wilson  
Alex Zomchek

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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.

Support the Beekeepers Voice of Ohio
Where in the Web is the Rev?

It's time to cast off the winter doldrums, get creative, and sharpen our internet skills. Facebook can be an informative AND fun social tool! OSBA wants to put the fun into beekeeping Facebook pages. To kick-off the New Year we are sponsoring a “Where in the Web is the Rev. (Langstroth)” contest.

Facebook can be an important vehicle for club communication. Many county associations use Facebook to update their club members on monthly club activities, and to help create a beekeeping community. Your club’s Facebook page succeeds when posts are shared within the your local and state beekeeping community. OSBA’s Facebook page features weekly posts that you can share with your member’s through your own Facebook page.

Here are the rules on how to play along with OSBA’s contest “Where in the Web is the Rev?”

1. Simply place a picture of the Rev. (available on the OSBA website) into one of your photos
2. Have a club officer send your photo to either: treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org or vice-president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
   Include entrant’s name, address, and local beekeeping association.
3. We will post the photo to the OSBA Facebook page
4. A maximum of 5 entries per local association
5. Entries must be received by January 28, 2017
6. Have your club members Like and Share the photo from the OSBA website.

OSBA reserves the right to edit materials for inappropriate content.

Enjoying Las Vegas with friends.

Even after a scooter ride his hair looks f-i-n-e!
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Percent with AFB: 0.81%
Percent with EFB: 0.19%
Percent with CB: 0.24%
Percent with Nosema: 0.06%
Percent with Varroa: 33.3%
Percent with SHB: 12.9%

Aplary: any place where one or more colonies are kept
Colony: the hive, bees (dead or alive), combs and brood
AFB: American Foulbrood, Paenibacillus larvae
EFB: European Foulbrood, Melissococcus pluton
CB: Chalkbrood, Ascosphaera apis
NOS: Nosema, Nosema apis
VAR: Varroa Mite, Varroa destructor = V. jacobsoni
SHB: Small Hive Beetle, Aethina tumida
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Ohio Pollinator Health, Protection, and Conservation Plan: Progress Report

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI), worked with its partner organizations to secure input from farmers, beekeepers, gardeners, food consumers, food retailers, pesticide applicators, pesticide companies, mosquito control districts, public and private land managers, and others interested in developing a plan to improve the health of Ohio pollinators. OPHI held five public stakeholder meetings September and October. The meetings were facilitated discussions focusing on the threats to Ohio pollinators, the strengths we have in the state to impact the threats, and the actions we can take to help pollinators. While the Plan originally was titled the Ohio Pollinator Protection Plan, the committee was advised to change the name. State Departments of Agriculture have been assigned the moniker as developers of “State Pollinator Protection Plans,” or “Managed Pollinator Protection Plans” also known as MP3s. As a group of diverse stakeholders from OPHI, it was requested we change our project’s name. So, “The Ohio Pollinator Health, Protection, and Conservation Plan” (OPHP&CP) was named. This plan will serve as a communication tool and guide for action to improve the health and survival of managed and native pollinators across Ohio. Community input is vital to the success of this endeavor. The working committee not only held five community meetings, but they also developed an online survey to secure public input. The working committee guiding the Ohio Pollinator Health, Protection, and Conservation Plan (OPHP&CP) is comprised of representatives from OSBA, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Ohio Dept. of Transportation, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, OSU Extension, and Ohio Dept. of Agriculture.

The initial draft outline for the OPHP&CP will consist of the following topics:

- Executive Summary
- Section I. Pollinator Roles and Concerns
- Current Status of Ohio Pollinators
- Pollinator Health Issues
- Section II. Actions to Benefit Pollinators
- Goals for Pollinator Health
- Improving Pollinator Habitat in Gardens & Lawns
- Beekeeping to Maximize Pollinator Health
- Maximizing Pollinator Health & Pollination Services on Farms
- Improving Pollinator Habitat in Prairies, Roadsides & Open Spaces

- Public health and minimizing impacts to pollinators – (mosquito control)
- Appendix A. Plan Creation, Implementation & Evaluation

Each topic area was assigned to the relevant stakeholder groups in Ohio to draft. Each topic area has a main author(s), with additional expert reviewers also from that subject area to assist in developing these best management practices for protecting pollinators in gardens and lawns, beekeeping, farms, roadsides, and mosquito control. OSBA’s section is creating the draft for “Beekeeping to Maximize Pollinator Health.”

The goal of the final plan is to develop tools all Ohioans can use to implement best management practices at a personal, city, county, and state policy level, and at the pest control level. The OPHP&CP contains no regulation, enforcement, or funding. This is why all Ohioans must take the lead. Once The OPHP&CP is developed and published it becomes a tool to educate how we can all work together to protect pollinators. It becomes an advocacy tool to guide local and state policy to protect pollinators. It becomes a support document to seek project funding for local and state activities from pollinator habitat development, cost share programs for pollinator habitat, roadside pollinator habitat development support, and education projects about the value of pollinators, the history, diversity, and value of beekeeping in Ohio, research of Ohio’s native pollinators and plants, and so much more.

The OPHP&CP will not instantly solve the problems of the health crisis of honey bees and native pollinators as, again it has no funding or enforcement attached to it at all. The OPHP&CP will be successful, will make a change in the health and sustainability of Ohio’s native pollinators, honey bees, and beekeeping in Ohio, only with all Ohio stakeholders working together to implement the best management practices defined by this Ohio plan.

It is important for all Ohioans to work together to improve the health of pollinators. Ohio agriculture, our park lands, our backyard gardens, one third of our food supply relies upon Ohio honey bees and native pollinators. Once the draft plan is complete it will be released for public comment. Ohioans will have a sixth opportunity to comment on these best management practices defined to protect...
Winter Loss: Another Perspective

I understand the angst associated with winter loss, especially if you’re new to beekeeping, or if you keep a few colonies in the backyard. No one wants to go through the demoralization and regret that result from dead bees. The high replacement cost of packages and nucs further aggravates the situation. No doubt this is the major reason many new beekeepers give up before they’ve had a chance to achieve any real success. However, if you operate more than ten or twelve colonies and spring pollination or nuc production is not part of the game plan, a moderate amount of winter loss is not necessarily a bad thing. Colonies perish for a wide variety of reasons. If you eliminate the basic winter prep necessities, adequate Varroa control, abundant stores, and suitable wind protection, Mother Nature is actually doing you a favor by removing the marginal or undesirable colonies. This is especially true in those regions with a well-defined winter period.

Rather than dwell on the downside, try looking at the positive side of winter loss. For starters, it provides an ideal opportunity to repair or perform basic maintenance on the now empty equipment. Perhaps a new coat of paint is in order? I routinely scrape the propolis buildup off the frame rests and brood box corners. This makes frame manipulation much easier once the equipment is put back into service. Since there are no bees to interfere this is also the perfect time to cull out those questionable combs. Do your brood combs contain too much drone comb, what about moldy pollen, or are they just plain old? If any of these apply, get rid of them! The next batch of bees will thank you. However, the greatest benefit from the previous season’s loss occurs the following spring. You have empty equipment, drawn comb, and frames of honey to facilitate the necessary spring management tasks. This is no minor issue. For example, my spring buildup period is dominated by cold, damp, windy weather. Any attempt to substitute frames of foundation for drawn comb is fraught with peril. The bees will simply ignore the foundation. Broodnest expansion is reduced accordingly, and the colony fails to build up in time for the main flow. Drawn combs from winter deadouts are the savior. Whether their empty or filled with honey, they’re almost worth their weight in gold. Spring management would be impossible without them. In practice, honey filled combs are used as emergency feed for colonies in need, or they provide the early splits with the necessary food reserve until fresh nectar becomes available. The empty combs they replace along with empty comb from winter deadouts, replace the frames of brood that are removed from strong overwintered colonies for split make up or colony equalization purposes.

How would you define winter loss? Early in my beekeeping career I remember an article in the ABJ written by a beekeeper in Minnesota. He stated that in his area any colony that overwintered with less than four full frames of bees was considered dead. Initially, I thought that this was a rather harsh assessment. However, over time, I came to realize he was right. Weak colonies are weak for a reason. Any attempt to rejuvenate or rebuild them with bees and brood from strong overwintered colonies is almost certain to fail.

Invariably the queen will be superceded well in advance of the main flow. The end result will be little or no honey produced and an almost total waste of the added resources. A much better option would be to de-queen the weak colony and incorporate the remaining bees and brood into the split make up or equalization process.

Contrary to current wisdom, if I were again running bees on scale I would have absolutely no problem with a twenty-five to thirty percent winter loss, providing that half to two thirds of the surviving colonies were in good or better condition. Under that scenario I would split or equalize the strong colonies to restart the dead-outs. That would in turn reduce or largely eliminate the swarming potential of the strong colonies. If Mother Nature were to cooperate there would be a reasonable prospect of a superior honey crop. I would much prefer that scenario to zero winter loss any day! With zero winter loss your only viable option is to pile on the supers and hope for the best. I’ve been in that situation a couple of times, and believe me, it’s not any fun. If you want to see beads of perspiration form on a beekeeping brow, zero winter loss coupled with mostly strong survivor colonies will certainly do the trick!

Winter loss also presents the enterprising beekeeper with the opportunity to start anew in more ways than one. First and foremost, new splits will be headed by a young queen. It doesn’t really matter where the queen originated, she is young and vigorous and that is one of the major keys to beekeeping success. Colonies headed by young queens are less prone to swarm, plus the young queen will produce more brood, faster, than a two or three year old queen. This has the potential to translate into a larger honey surplus providing the weather cooperates. Equally important, a young queen will produce a larger cluster of bees heading into winter than will an older queen. If the other winter prerequisites are met, the chances for successful overwintering improve exponentially. Secondly, perhaps for one reason or another, you’re dissatisfied with your current stock. Spring splits

(Continued on page 19)
No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

Roasted Honey Cranberry Spread

2 1/2 c. fresh cranberries
3/4 c. honey
1/2 t. orange zest

Heat oven (I used my toaster oven) to 325.
Mix ingredients in an 8x8 oven safe dish
Bake for about 45 minutes until soft and thick. Stir every 15 minutes or so.
Remove and let cool. If its not sweet enough for your taste buds, add more honey. Keep in fridge.

Great as a topping on crackers, ice cream, pancakes, etc.

Serving suggestion: Mix equal amounts of goat cheese and cream cheese, line a ramekin with plastic wrap, and then layer the cream cheese mixture with the cranberry spread. Let chill for a few minutes, and then turn upside down on a tray, remove the ramekin and plastic wrap, and voila! Almost instant nosh for last minute invites or guests.

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, for any item, 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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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 the business of OSBA. Get to know your Representatives.

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Dwight Wilson
Representative
Mike Soboleski

Director
Tom Rathbun
Representative
Angel Mitchell

Director
Richard Manley
Representative
Peggy Garnes

Director
Dwight Wells
Representative
Mike Doseck

Director
Alex Zomchek
Representative
To be Nominated

Director
Marishka Wile
Representative
Chris Dresel

Director
Joe Kovaleski
Representative
To be nominated

Director
Michael DeVaughn
Representative
To be Nominated

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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are also the ideal medium in which to initiate a change in genetics. Obviously this can be accomplished anytime during the active season, but only spring offers the advantage of allowing one to analyze the new stock throughout the active season and upcoming overwinter period.

Unfortunately, winter loss is an integral part of beekeeping; there is simply no way to avoid it. The wise beekeeper learns from the experience, and adjusts his or her management program accordingly. Or, as I routinely tell my beekeeping friends, you do your best to make lemonade out of lemons that constitute winter loss.

Ohio pollinators. OSBA will email its members when that public comment period opens in early spring. After the public comment period, the writers and reviewers of each topic area will incorporate the additional stakeholder comments into the plan. As final compilation of the topic areas and printing processes allow, the Ohio Pollinator Health, Protection, and Conservation Plan should be released during National Pollinator week in June 2017 or shortly thereafter.
During the Ohio State Beekeepers Association conference in Plain City on Nov. 5, 2016 you may have attended the session "New Label Laws, Sanitation, and All about Bottling." I would like to clarify some information that was shared at the Fall Conference. While there have been some updates to the Ohio Cottage Foods regulation, the labeling of pure honey has not changed. Please read further for clarification, and to learn about the changes that have occurred.

For those of you only selling only pure honey, the labeling requirements have not changed. However, if you are infusing your honey with flavoring, these products have been added to the Ohio Cottage Foods list. This means there is a change in labeling for these flavor-infused products. Prior to the addition to the Ohio Cottage Foods list, flavored honey products were considered a processed product and therefore were required to be produced in a licensed facility. Since flavored honey has been added to the cottage food list, these products can now be produced without the need for inspection. If you plan on selling your honey (flavored or pure) you must follow the requirements set forth in the ORC Section 3715.023 and properly label your honey. The requirements are:

1. The name and address of the business of the cottage food production operation, processor, or beekeeper;
2. The name of the food product;
3. The ingredients of the food product, in descending order of predominance by weight;
4. The net weight and volume of the food product;
5. In the case of a cottage food production operation, the following statement in ten-point type: "This product is home produced."

I have received questions about selling honey with the wax. This should be listed as honey, beeswax. For more complete information about the labeling of cottage food products go to the Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Food Safety website: http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FoodSafety/foodsafety.aspx#fog

There are additional regulations in Ohio related to the keeping of bees and the selling of honey. First, the state of Ohio does have a definition of honey. According to the Ohio Revised Code Section 3715.01, "‘Honey’ means the nectar and saccharine exudation of plants that has been gathered, modified, and stored in a honeycomb by honeybees.” Further defined in the ORC is that honey is an exempt product and not considered a food processing establishment; Section 3715.021 A "food processing establishment” does not include..., “a beekeeper who jars honey when a minimum of seventy-five per cent of the honey is from that beekeeper's own hives.” As such, honey is an exempt product.

Second, to engage in beekeeping in Ohio, the producer must be licensed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Apiary Division. This requires an annual application and a $5/apiary fee be paid with the application. You can find the application and submission information at: http://www.agri.ohio.gov/apps/odalicensing/odalicensing.aspx?div=Plant%20Industry&type=Apiary

Type of License: Apiary
Who Needs This License? Any person keeping one or more honey bee colonies in an apiary.
Licensing Period: June 1 through May 31 Annually
Annual Fee: $5.00 per apiary (yard with one or more bee hives)

(Continued on page 42)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Pure Honey</th>
<th>Cinnamon Flavored Honey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statement of Responsibility</td>
<td>Buckeye Honey Farm 123 Buckeye St Buckeye OH 12345</td>
<td>Buckeye Honey Farm 123 Buckeye St Buckeye OH 12345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The name of the food product</td>
<td>Honey</td>
<td>Cinnamon Flavored Honey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingredients</td>
<td>Honey</td>
<td>Honey, cinnamon</td>
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<tr>
<td>New weight and volume</td>
<td>1 lb. (454 g)</td>
<td>1 lb. (454 g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Food</td>
<td></td>
<td>This Product is Home Produced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Take Advantage of These Winter/Spring Educational Workshops

2017 Honey Bee Expo

The Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers’ Association, in conjunction with the West Virginia Extension Services, will be sponsoring the 15th annual Honey Bee Expo. This event will be held Saturday, January 28th, 2017 on the campus of the West Virginia University, Parkersburg. This is an all-day conference dedicated to the honey bee and the hobby of beekeeping.

This year’s keynote speaker will be retired Kentucky State Apiarist, and Bee Culture magazine’s (Ask Phil) column, Phil Craft. Also scheduled to attend will be Garrett Dodds from the USDA Baton Rouge Research Center.

There will be classes for all levels of beekeeping, from beginning to advanced.

Cost of this event will be $20.00 if preregistered by January 13th, or $25.00 at the door. Children twelve and under - $8.00.

Vendors will be present with equipment (which can be pre-ordered) for your beekeeping needs.

Complete information will be posted on the MOVBA website (movba.org) as it becomes available.

2017 Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper School

The SWOBA Beekeeper School at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland, Ohio is March 25, 2017. Registration opens January 15th. For more information, visit http://warren.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/southwestern-ohio-beekeeper-school

The Beekeepers of Indiana

They will hold their fifteenth Bee School in Indianapolis, Indiana on Saturday February 25, 2017, at Decatur Central High School, Indianapolis, Indiana 46221. Lectures, hands-on workshops and discussions will be held for beekeepers with any level of skill, experience or ability. Topics on introductory beekeeping tools and techniques, as well as learning opportunities for the more advanced beekeeper will be available. For more information visit their website: http://indianabeekeeper.com/contact_us/indiana_bee_school_xv

TCBA 2017 Spring Workshop

The 39th Tri-County Beekeepers Association Annual Spring Beekeepers Workshop at Fisher Auditorium and Shisler Conference Center (1680 Madison Ave, Wooster, OH 44691) will be March 3-4, 2017.

Registration opens January 15th. For more information, visit www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register.

Michigan Beekeepers Association

MBA will hold its Spring 2017 Conference on Friday March 10 and Saturday March 11 at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University. For more information, visit their website at: http://www.michiganbees.org/2017/save-the-date-spring-conference-2017/
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Nov. 1 - Feb. 28
Monday - Saturday:
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Association Corner

From Miami Valley Region:

Greene County Beekeepers Association: GCBA finished off an exciting year with Barbara Bloetscher and Michele Colopy as guest speakers. The annual carry-in dinner was well attended. Plans are already underway for great 2017.

From Mike Doseck - Top of Ohio:

Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association met for the final meeting of the year on December 12th at 7 PM (always the second Tuesday of the Month). December meeting is set aside for the election of Officers and on even years we hold elections for the President and the Treasurer. This year our election results for President and Treasurer were Mike Doseck and Mark Watercutter respectively. Damaris Murphy, our Club Secretary, will be expecting a new arrival in her home. The new Secretary, for a one year term will be Robin Felver.

November was the drawing for the Club Quilt made by eleven year old Gentry Clark. The winner of the quilt was Angie Clark. At this meeting, GGLBA donated $100 in Beekeeping books to the St. Marys Community Library.

In 2017, GGLBA will have as January guest speaker, Jason Jones, on the topic of pollinator habitat, and how to prepare your site. The February speaker and topic is yet to be confirmed. February will be GGLBA’s Beginning Beekeeping Class. In March, the Club will be hosting Jeannie Schaum, from Beepothecary, talking about harvesting propolis and the health benefits of propolis, along with other products from her business.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association ended the year with its annual Carry-In Dinner, Elections, and Auction. Plans are underway for an exciting and educational 2017.

From Dwight Wilson - Maumee Valley Region:

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association finished off an educational and fun 2016, and are working on their Beginner Beekeeping Classes and speaker schedule for 2017.

From Peggy Garnes – Western Reserve Region:

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association welcomes the GCLA Officers for 2017: President Larry Theurer, VP Paul Busser, Treasurer Tony Indovina, Directors Gary Lisely and Mark Vandeyburg, along with Past President Dennis Eck. Visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/greaterclevelandbeekeepers. The club is busy working on their May 20th Field Day/Conference with Dr. Thomas Seeley as their Keynote Speaker.

From Marishka Wile and Chris Dresel - Ohio Valley:

Adams County Beekeepers Association had a busy fall. In August, Kevin Hale from Wellington, Kentucky gave his annual presentation on “Preparing Hives for Winter.” This well-attended event is always a favorite. In September, a Dadant representative attended so members could stock up on winter supplies. It was a fun evening of shopping, raffle prizes and a table filled with the finest desserts in Ohio Valley. ACBA members attended the Ohio Renaissance Festival and gave a presentation about bees to a busload of second graders visiting the event.

There was an open forum meeting in October where the recipients of ACBA’s scholarship gave year-end presentations. This scholarship is supported by the Farm Bureau and the applications are reviewed and judged by a panel of ACBA members. Winners receive a free year of ACBA membership, a complete hive, the support of a mentor and all necessary gear. Upon completion of the scholarship requirements, the youth will receive a certificate of completion and an additional certificate stating ownership of the hive and equipment. This program has always been a great success. ACBA members enjoy the monthly reports the recipients are required to give at each meeting. The October meeting ended with a Q & A session about winter hive preparation. ACBA meetings will resume in February. They are held at 7pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Bible Baptist Church in West Union. For more information visit https://www.facebook.com/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association-214316711916893/about/

(Continued on page 26)
Beekeepers are always curious about pollen and nectar sources for their bees in the fall. Highland County Beekeepers Association has an annual identification meeting where members bring in plants they see the bees working. Many of the plants are identified by President Tom House who has many years of botanical experience. Plants that are unknown are looked up in various identification guides. The close-knit, informal nature of HCBA’s meetings invite inexperienced members to ask questions. And, as is the way with beekeepers, there are always several answers from which to choose. Winter feeding and sharing formulas were the main topic of conversation in October. The November election and year-end party was a wonderful success. The club shared farewell camaraderie over platefuls of potluck bounty and home-made desserts. Elections were held.

The Highland County Beekeepers Association will resume meetings in February on the third Tuesday of each month at the Highland County Administration Building in Hillsboro. Visit www.highlandcountybeekinders.com/index.html.

Brown County Beekeepers Association. As winter approaches, beekeeping activity for Brown County Beekeepers slowed considerably. Throughout the fall, members actively took steps to prepare their hives for the inevitable cold weather with hopes and expectations of higher survival rates than seasons past. Some of these steps include wrapping hives with insulating material, adding extra solid feeders/candy boards, and constructing windbreaks of various designs to thwart brutal northerly winds. In our area, a respectable bloom of wild asters and goldenrod seemed to have helped many hives gain the required stores needed to persevere. In all, expectations are high that many hives will survive the coming winter and thrive in 2017.

This fall was a busy time for most members of BCBA. At October’s meeting the association had the opportunity to observe, evaluate, and discuss the Flow Hive. Along with viewing several instructional and educational videos, members discussed the potential pros and cons of the controversial new product, and how such a product could be best used in our local area. Because the unit was new and unused, the group plans to have additional information next summer once the device is put into service during 2017. At the November meeting, the BCBA held their annual elections, shared their experiences and celebrated the companionship of beekeeping. In addition to regularly scheduled monthly meetings, association members kept busy in many other manners. The association put on a great show at the Brown County Fair. The Open Honey Show, observation hive, honey and hive product sales, and public outreach programs were highly successful. Also during the late summer and fall, there were a rather surprising number of swarm calls fielded by the club and several members were able to capture the swarms to either fortify their smaller hives or install into woodenware with drawn comb to augment the colony’s efforts to get fully established and healthy by the end of the season.

BCBA will start their regularly scheduled meetings each second Tuesday of the month beginning on February 14th, 2017. Club members Gary Keuffer and Chris Dresel will be providing Introduction to Beekeeping educational seminars at local libraries and other public venues throughout the late fall and winter. The association will hold an intermediate level seminar for individuals and families interested in getting started in beekeeping. This session will be held at 7:00pm on the 10th of January 2017. This educational effort and all upcoming 2017 meetings will be held at the Western Brown High School – Community Room, 476 W Main St, Mt Orab, OH 45154. For more information about the Brown County Beekeepers Association, visit www.browncountybeekindersassociation.org.

From Jeff Gabric- Heart of Ohio:

Knox County Beekeepers Association offers student scholarships and is currently taking applications. Winners receive $300. The club is also talking to the library about having them purchase a list of bee books we recommend and reimbursing them so these books will be available to members and the community.

Scioto Valley Beekeepers ended 2016 with a December meeting which included door prizes. SVBA is kicking off 2017 with their January meeting. Dan Williams will discuss winter feeding practices.

From Tom Rathbun- Erie Basin:

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers held their annual club Christmas party/election meeting. Along with the meeting was the potluck, attended by 50 members. The topic of the evening was “What Should We Be Doing in the Hive.”

Richland Area Beekeepers hosted Dr. Reed Johnson discussing “Beekeeping Drugs; When and Why” at their meeting. The club also reviewed the commitments of area bee yards on what is needed to be done.

Black For Bee Club’s December meeting covered the topic of “Gifts of Beekeeping.”
GRO1000 Grassroots Grants

ScottsMiracle-Gro is dedicating grant funding and pollinator education resources to help establish and enhance pollinator gardens in 2017. GRO1000 showcase grant awards will provide monetary grants, product donations and educational resources to cities across the U.S. The Pollinator Stewardship Council and Ohio State Beekeepers are working together to encourage local groups to apply for the GRO1000 grant funds.

Grants of up to $1,500 will be available for community gardens and greenspaces. The majority of grants awarded are $500. Application period ends February 20, 2017. As a 501c3 organization, OSBA can work as your fiscal agent if you are considering applying for this grant. For more information about the grant, visit: GRO1000.com

Budget Friendly Pollinator Plantings

Every Spring, many County Soil and Water Conservation Departments participate in tree sales. They offer a variety of conifers, shrubs, and deciduous trees for a great price. These “whips” vary in age from 1-3 years of age and 8-28 inches in height. Not only are many of these trees and shrubs pollinator friendly, but many would also work double duty as future windbreaks for your apiary.

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

Most Soil and Water District sales end by the beginning of March, so don't delay on checking out their order forms.

Pollinator Plantings - Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative

OSBA is an active member of the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.

Here is a photo of the State Route 33 “Prairie in Progress”. Photo courtesy of Tim Arheit.

Lucky beekeepers who live in this area benefit from this diverse forage for their bees!
Looking For a Beginner Beekeeping Class? We have the 411

As OSBA receives more information about the Beginner Classes, we will be updating our website. If your class is not listed, please contact Terry Lieberman-Smith at osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com so your class can be posted on the OSBA website and we can send you Welcome Packets for your students.

**Athens County Beekeepers**
Athens County Free Beginner Class will be held February 18th at the Athens County Library from Noon to 5 p.m. For more details visit: athensbeekeepers.org.

**Central Ohio Beekeepers**
The 4 session Beginner Class has either Monday (starting on Feb 20) or Tuesday (starting on Feb 21) classes. for $70. Another option is the February 18th all day Beekeeping Class for $80. Visit www.centralohiobeekeepers.org.

**Coshocton County Beekeepers**
CCBA’s Beginner Beekeeping Class is on Saturday February 20 from 9-4 p.m. at the Frontier Power Community Room. Registration is $50 per person and $25 for each additional family household member and includes a hands-on field day at a Coshocton County bee yard. Visit www.coshoctonbeekeepers.com.

**East Central Ohio Beekeepers**
ECOBA one-day bee schools run from 9-4 p.m. Jan 21, Jan 28, Feb 4 and Feb 18. each session is $75.00. For more info, contact: info@e-coba.org.

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association**
The class sessions are February 1, 8, 15, 22 and March 8 at the Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmstead from 7-9 p.m. The $50 fee also includes a 1 year membership to GCBA. Visit www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com.

**Greater Grand Lakes Beekeepers Association**
The GGLBA Beginning Beekeeping Class on February 4th, from 7 a.m.- 4 p.m. will be held in Celina at the Richardson-Bretz Memorial Building. The $40.00 registration includes a book, and a 1 year membership to GGLBA. Reservations and payments can be sent to GGLBA 9866 North County Road 66A, New Bremen, OH 45869.

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

**Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers**
There will be two sessions in the beginner’s beekeepers class. There will be a 5 hour classroom session on Saturday, February 4, from 9 am to 2 pm and a 2 hour class on-site session at Don Crock’s apiary. The classroom will also be held at Nobel County Soil & Water in Caldwell, OH. The class is $35.00 includes book, membership to the Guernsey Noble Beekeepers Association and other incidentals. Instructor Don Crock, is Past President of Guernsey Noble Beekeepers and Noble County Bee Inspector.

To enroll: please send an email to Don Crock at doncrock@yahoo.com. Include your phone number and email. Or call Don at 740-581-1883.

**Knox County Beekeepers**
KCBA will again offer their annual Beginner Beekeeping Classes on Feb 11 (Beginner One), and March 11 (Beginner Two). Cost will be $45 per class. See www.knoxbees.com/ for details.

**Lorain County Beekeepers**
LCBA’s Beginner Class offers their class from 7-9 p.m. on March 3, 4, 10, 17 and 24 in Oberlin, OH. Class fee of $50 include 1 year LCBA membership, Hands on Field day, and a Fall Wrap up Class. For more details visit: www.loraincountybeekeepers.org/.

**Maumee Valley Beekeepers**
The Maumee Valley Beekeepers will be holding a 3 part beginning beekeepers class on Jan 18, Feb 22 and March 22 starting at 7:00 pm held at the Wildwood Environmental Academy. The $35 registration include a book, 1 year membership to Maumee Valley Beekeepers, and 1 year membership to OSBA. Check their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Maumee-Valley-Bee-Keepers-Association-151553878221074/?fref=nf.

**Medina County Beekeepers**
MCBA is sponsoring two Beginner Classes. Cost: $85.00 per person or $100 for a family. Fees includes MCBA membership for one year, 1 book, and 15+ hours of instruction. There will be outside demonstrations, as weath-

(Continued on page 29)

Saturday Sessions: Feb 11 and 25 At the Medina County Library from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evenings: Feb 21, 28, March 7, 14, and 21. These sessions will be held in the A.I. Root Conference Room from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Miami Valley Beekeepers
This two session class is on February 6 and 13 and runs from 9-4 p.m. at Brukner Nature Center in Troy, OH. Registration is $55 and includes a 1 year membership to MVBA and OSBA. Contact Brukner Nature Center to register: www.bruknernaturecenter.com/

Morrow County Beekeepers
The Morrow County Beekeepers class is January 14, from 9-3 and costs $40. See the MCBA Facebook page for registration details. www.facebook.com/Morrow-County-Beekeepers-Association-399671692424

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association
The Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association will hold a Beginning Beekeepers Workshop from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday, February 11th , at the OSU Campus in the Science Building, in Lima, OH.

The cost is $30 and includes membership to The Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association, OSBA and a book. To register, call Dwight Wilson at 419-722-1953 or Tim Arheit at 720.476.0030.

Portage County Beekeepers
Beginner Classes will be held at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna on February 9, 16 and 23 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. with two workshops later in the spring. Contact Portage County Beekeepers at 330.678.3453.

Scioto Valley Beekeepers
This three session class held on from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings, April 12,19 and 26 in the community room of the Circleville Fire Department, 596 N. Court St. Cost is $60 and includes the book, handouts, a one-year membership in Scioto Valley Beekeepers and a one-year membership in Ohio State Beekeepers Association. Registration is limited. For more information, email scioto-valleybeekeepers@yahoo.com, or David Crawford at 740.477.2393.

Stark County
The one day class is February 4 at the Stark Park Exploration Gateway. Class runs from 9 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Registration of $30 includes class, book, light snacks and lunch. Visit their website for registration details. www.starkbeekeepers.org

Summit County
Class is held on 5 consecutive Wednesdays (Jan 11, 18, 25 and Feb 1, 8) from 7pm-9pm at the Summit County Fairgrounds. Class fee: $85 (individual) or $125 family (payable upon registration). Includes the class, a beginner’s beekeeping book, and a 1 year membership in the Summit County Beekeepers Association. www.summitbeekeepers.org

Warren County Beekeepers Association
Warren County Beekeepers’ class is on Saturday, January 28 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Greenacres Education Offices 8221 Spooky Hollow Road in Cincinnati, OH.

Preregistration deadline is January 21st. Cost is $20 per individual, or $25 per family and includes annual membership in WCBA. For more information, or to reserve your spot, call 513.570.4246.

Urban Beekeepers of Central Ohio
UBCO is offering two Beginner Bee Class. The dates are January 28 and February 25th. Cost for the 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. class is $100. Check their Facebook page for details: www.facebook.com/groups/629509607177176/.
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My wife Deb and I sell honey under the DebsBeez label, and run around 50 colonies between Butler, Preble, and Montgomery counties in SW Ohio. We have many customers interested in our White Dutch Clover honey, and other seasonal varietals, and good ol’ wildflower honey. The bees on 80 acres of white clover started late this year due to alternating wet and cold, then took off like a shot in mid-June. We had as many as twenty seven colonies on this yard, moving in swarms and splits when necessary. Everything was looking up and honey was coming in, until drought set in and the clover browned out in August. Having a tight monoculture foraging varietal honey can have its price, and we had to start feeding bees as the goldenrod bloom had not started. The bees were sucking down syrup, and no pollen was coming in, at just the time they really need to have nectar and pollen to make fall bees! Emergency planning sets in = save the bees.

Hey, I was keeping track of a huge tract of incoming fall weeds, predominantly goldenrod and ironweed about 20 miles north, as I drove from work every evening. Can’t we get this yard moved to pasture? I found a 16-foot camper trailer frame with dual 3500 pound axles at a friend’s farm. Had it weighed on the way home, set it in front of the barn and cut the top off. Added reinforcement to hold 18 hives (leaves about 6 inches between 9 on each side). From rough trailer to pollinator conveyance over a long weekend. Worked out a location with a friend about 500 yards from the pasture site in the few off minutes, and plans were forged. Then came the hard part!

Deb helped me combine and reduce the weaker hives into 18 strong colonies, close them up, and she took one side of the carrier with me to get them off the blocks and strapped onto the trailer – not an easy task. NOTE TO SELF: Start packages on next trailer. Next morning we added a slow moving vehicle placard, and she followed me at 25 MPH up the road to another county. I notified the county bee inspectors and state apiarist that this yard’s hive count and location had changed.

Setting the trailer was easy, and in 20 minutes we had bees released and hovering to GPS their new location. I stopped by from work next day, and they were already foraging. Two weeks later the entire area smelled like the proverbial gym locker, and I added one or two medium supers depending on each colony’s progress (2 turned out to be wishful thinking). On 30 October, we removed the supers, closed them up late in the evening, and carted the whole shebang home on the 31st. The Goldenrod honey was absolutely clear and very popular at the late markets and craft shows. Now to overwinter successfully.

We’ve found working bees-on-trailer to be easier than traditional concrete block bases, as adjacent hives support tools within close reach because the hives are all at the same knee height, and the trailer deck is a perfect resting place for covers and pulled frames. One drawback is not being able to use a standard length frame rest due to the tight spacing, but a hacksaw fixed that quickly. So I’m already working on an improved Expeditionary Pollinator Force delivery system, and have contracted with a local park to place a trailer in close proximity to...
their stands of Black Locust at the end of April. I’m looking for a stand of Basswood to target in June. I expect that by the end of next year all of our bees will be on trailers.

Suggestions: Plan your work, work you plan. Find a trailer that will haul the load, as in this case 18 could top 2-1/2 tons. If you need engineering or fabrication assistance, check local machine or weld shops. Check with your auto insurance, your beekeeper insurance, and any other underwriter for policy compliance. Check your state and local licensing, traffic, and agricultural laws. Make sure you do not create a nuisance on the road, and by all means have backup plan – AAA or not, very few tow truck drivers will want to help you if a million or so bees are buzzing around your stranded truck and trailer, and take a spare tire for the trailer. Work out a path into and out of the intended bee yard, and plan for weather. You can set your bees up to follow nectar flows at a moment’s notice.

Editor’s Note: Dennis would like to hear from you if you are trailering your bees. Contact him at: dmalonej@gmail.com.

More Than Just Building Blocks

Like many of you this year, I was contacted by a few local team coaches from the FIRST Lego League (FLL). These bright students were eager to hear about issues facing honey bees, as they look for solutions to help our favorite insect.

One of the groups in my area is working with a local county park to help encourage the planting of pollinator habitat.

The following article was provided by one of the local coaches, Mr. Kokoczka:

FIRST is an acronym, but the overall program is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) outreach program. The Legos come into play for the robot competition. Each year FIRST determines an overarching theme. This year’s theme is “Animals and Allies”. In short, the theme is to understand examples of how animals and humans interact and benefit from one another. There are three parts to FIRST Lego League: core values, research project, and Lego design/competition. The core values consist of tenants and codes of conducts the kids follow throughout the year to learn how to function as a team and explore the problem solving process. You can look these up on the website. The research project relates to the theme. Teams are to pick an animal, explore and understand the human animal interaction, identify a problem with that interaction, and develop a unique solution to the problem. Creativity is key, but has greater weight than practicality to some degree. Core values and the research project make up a fraction of the team’s overall score, but do not involve Lego.

The robot design and competition involve using Lego Mindstorm kits to build a robot to solve “missions” that are designed around a human animal interaction. The challenge guide for FLL has a story about why the designers picked the challenge to go along with the overarching theme. Missions involve: navigation, pushing, lifting, pulling, delivering, or collecting objects. The competition teaches kids about design constraints and challenges. The missions serve as the problem that needs solving. For example, this year there is a mission where the kids must pick up a Lego bee model, place it on top of a hive which will activate a plunger that will release a barrel of honey that the robot must return to home base. Each run is 2:30 minutes long, so teams must prioritize which mission they want to complete based on difficulty and points.

Depending on how teams score overall, they can advance to the next level of competition. We are a first year team and coaches and students alike are learning as we go, but it has been very interesting to see the team develop as well as being exposed to new ideas and projects based on the themes.

The Ohio beekeeping community wishes the best for all the FFL teams working to help share ideas about protecting the honey bee.
**Introduction**

We are team CRE8, a group of boys ages 10 to 12. We are part of an organization called FIRST Lego League. ([http://www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org)) Guided by our two adult coaches, teams like ours research a real-world problem each year such as food safety, recycling, energy, etc. and develop a solution. This year’s theme is Animal Allies and about the relationship of humans and animals. Another part of the program is learning and applying science and engineering skills through designing, building, and programming a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS®. Another really cool thing about FIRST Lego League is the application of the program’s Core Values during and outside of the meetings like displaying Gracious Professionalism® in everything we do.

**Problem: Bees Dying in the Winter!**

We heard about the shrinking bee population and decided to act immediately. We researched books, articles, and interviewed local beekeepers in our area. More than 2/3 of the food would be affected if we didn’t have bees to pollinate crops.

**Research: Why Are They Dying?**

We discovered that about 30% of bees die over just the winter due to the sheer cold or freezing water drips on the bees in the hive. There are also hungry predators. We researched existing solutions and found a B-ware system, blankets, and electric heaters. Though good, they only monitor, require grid electricity or do not solve more than 1 winter issue. That STINGS for bees and us.

The Hive House® is cost effective to manufacture. It is scalable from a single to multiple hives to fit each beekeeper’s need. We researched various materials like metal, wood or composite for the frame; glass, polycarbonate, or plastic film for panels. After our analysis, we picked wood and glass as affordable yet natural, recyclable materials, with the added full transparency benefit.

**Solution: The Hive House® is 3 Simple Solutions in 1! Dry, Warm, and Protected.**

We used teamwork to brainstorm, share designs through sketches, and build on each other’s ideas. The Hive House® keeps bees dry, warm and protected easily slipping over a hive with no assembly. We capitalize on the greenhouse effect by trapping the sun’s infrared rays to heat the space inside.

**Implementation: Cost?**

We estimate one Hive House® to fit over a single hive base to cost about $40 and would be a preferred alternative compared to losing some to all of a hive of bees. Check out our YouTube video explaining our solution! ([CRE8 Hive House® Winter Bee Keeping Solution](http://youtu.be/08Rnc6eX3Bs))

**We need your valuable feedback:** we want to improve upon our prototype and it gets us extra credit at our competition in January! Please email us at [teamcre8bots@gmail.com](mailto:teamcre8bots@gmail.com) before January 14 so we can act on and share your feedback. We have enjoyed learning about bees this season and we hope the Hive House® will help beekeepers and bees everywhere. Thank you for all you do to promote the well-being of honey bees!

We’ll BEE waiting for your reply,

CRE8 (Zak, Srikar, Nate, Rhusath, Yash, Dhanush, Josh, and Ashton)
Congratulations to the OSBA Fall Conference Contest Winners

The Honey Contest is always a popular activity at the OSBA Fall Conference. Honey Judge Jim Thompson has his hands full as he spends the day critiquing the anonymous entries. We appreciate all the hard work that was put into these entries.

Congratulations to the winners:

Extracted Honey: 1st: Terry Lieberman-Smith  
2nd: Fran Davidson

Wax: 1st: Joe Kovaleski  
2nd: Gene McCune

Creamed: 1st Terry Lieberman-Smith  
2nd: David Crawford

Gift Basket: 1st: Joe Heider  
2nd: Terry Lieberman-Smith

Best of Show for creamed honey: Terry Lieberman-Smith
Tis the end of another bee season so I thought a bee narrative to look back and plan forward would be appropriate. Warning: this anecdotal bee story is a bit like painting a room. Lots of prep work only to finish quickly; but it has the virtue of being true.

This story begins by asking you to recall the abundant amount of swarming this past spring. As such, two hives came my way as mid-spring swarms. I happened to be working on my manuscript, “Hive Monitoring: Saving Bees One Beekeeper at a Time” (available this spring). I also was part of the committee working on the - OSBA’s Apiary Diagnostic Kit (ADK). Both projects were going to run throughout most of the year. And both were built on a similar theme I have been interested in for some years now – hive monitoring.

So with “free” bees in hand I thought this was a great opportunity to run a practical trial to coincide with my monitoring montage. I could compare and contrast typical new beekeeping behavior with more purposeful, diligent beekeeping behavior.

To the chagrin and delight of my neighbors I set both colonies in my front yard. I wanted to provide similar environmental conditions (forage, water, sun/shade, etc.) to both hives. And with a busy summer coming up I also wanted to essentially trip over my hives as a reminder to be ever vigilant, or not, depending on the colony. Aside: proximity to your bees and colony health is highly correlated.

So my plan was simple. One colony was to be “monitored” regularly. The other colony was to be checked every two or three weeks with little to no intervention simulating typical new beekeeper behavior. In other words, I was going to use my monitoring and treating bag of tricks on one hive while letting the other hive sink or swim.

Hopefully to ward off any offense let me be clear. New beekeepers are not bad beekeepers per se. They are just inexperienced. We all started there. But yesteryear beekeeping is not today’s beekeeping. We could afford to be hands-off beekeepers then. Not so today. Mortality rates are 50%+ statewide. Replacement bees are simply getting too expense (and frustrating!) to let current colonies die-off through lack of diligence.

Back to the story. Both swarms were given eight frames of drawn comb and two frames of foundation to start. This ensured that egg laying could begin almost immediately while simultaneously allowing the bees to draw out new frames. Swarms are comprised almost entirely of young bees whose wax glands are primed for comb building. It is a missed opportunity to not exploit this resource.

Both queens were marked and both colonies settled in and were then given 1:1 sugar water feed (carbohydrates) to not only augment the meager honey stores they brought with them, but to also stimulate brood production. Spring equation: more and better feed equates to more and better bees.

Here’s where the story and hives began to diverge. Because it was mid-spring and a nectar/pollen flow was on I left the unmonitored hive to its own devices. However, I fed the monitored hive with a commercial pollen (protein), vitamin, and mineral supplements. Again, better feed better bees.

And so the bee season with my mini experiment unfolded. There isn’t the space here to give a complete recounting of events so here are the highlights. The monitored colony started stronger than the unmonitored. No two colonies are created equal and queen ages and genetics (not feed) was likely a bigger factor at this early stage. Had the monitored hive shown the same lackluster laying pattern I would have replaced the queen and added a frame of brood (or two) from another hive(s) to spur things along.

The unmonitored colony continued to limp along. Ultimately mites became a problem. Aside: I did regularly check mites counts on both colonies using a modified sugar shake method and treated the monitored colony once the mite load reached 3%. The untreated colony saw mite loads go past 12% and was left untreated.

It was around midsummer that the queen in the unmonitored colony died and the classic death spiral ultimately took the rest of the colony down by early fall. My nonintervention approach was then violated when wax moths were observed. Many newer beekeepers think that wax moths can kill a colony when in fact, wax moths which are a seasonal pest, take over weakened or dead colonies.

The monitored colony’s season was not without mishaps. Mid-season I saw that the queen showed an unusual de-
crease in egg production.

Swarm colonies are usually overwintered colonies and the swarm queen is usually the old queen. So when hiving swarms instead of packages and nucs you have to take queen age and egg laying viability into extra consideration. You can monitor for this.

I intervened by forcing queen cell production; removed the old queen; and observed and monitored the new queen for a successful open mating and subsequent and substantial egg production.

Mites levels rose again above 3% mid fall and additional acaricides were introduced.

Long story short, the monitored swarm colony produced two medium supers of honey. The unusually long, warm fall led to a light colony which I then fed and finally tucked away for the winter.

Now, there are a lot of different ways to have let these two hives play out; and almost all of them would have had better outcomes for the unmonitored hive. But I got the bees for free and I wanted to have a real world experience to share and not just some theoretical, hand waving conjectures.

One critical point here is that the monitored colony could have likely met the same fate as the unmonitored colony had I not controlled for mites (twice), initiated a queen replacement, and fed.

It is time to finally paint that room after all this prep! This experience can be summarized with a few takeaways.

- Try to have 2+ hives. Excessive mortality is big problem; particularly for newer beekeepers. Up your survival odds by having resources to borrow from if/when things go south.
- Resource management. Seasonally monitor for food, pests, diseases, queen viability, et.al.
- Catch issues sooner rather than later. Take timely and appropriate action(s) when you encounter something going awry.
- Out of sight; out of mind. Forgettery and cognitive dissonance are nemesees to beekeepers. Also, better record keeping leads to better monitoring, which then leads to better beekeeping.

In summary - bee mortality, replacement inflation, and “b-frustrations” are on the rise and 2017 shows no signs of ebbing. Ring in the new year by adopting a better beekeeping methodology – monitoring. Through timed resource management checks, together with preventative and proactive treatment(s), you can reduce mortality costs; increase your honey crop; all the while reducing frustrations and anxiety allowing you to focus more on the joys of the art and science of our ancient beekeeping craft.

Look for OSBA’s second quarterly newsletter where I will continue this story with, “Monitoring: What it takes to achieve near Zero Hive Losses.”
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OSBA 2017 Outreach to Beginner Beekeeping Classes

The 2016 OSBA Outreach Program to those enrolled in New Beekeeper Schools sponsored by local associations reached the largest group of new-bees so far. We sent out over 1000 OSBA Care Packages.

Each student received educational information, promotional items, pen, PLUS one year complimentary membership to OSBA. We all know that beekeeping is not an inexpensive activity, and we want all new-bees to get off on the right track—education, fellowship and awareness of all that OSBA offers.

We are offering this program again in 2017. Make sure that we have your association’s contact information! Send your information to:

Tim Arheit: president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
Or
Terry Lieberman-Smith: vice-president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Help your students become eligible for a complimentary Apiary Diagnostic Kit, and complimentary 1 year OSBA membership. Send in your student roster so we know they have enrolled in a Beginner Beekeeping Class.

OSBA Logo Wear Gets a New Home and More Options in 2017

We heard your requests for a larger variety of OSBA logo wear alternatives, and we have created a new on-line storefront to help fill your requests. Show your OSBA support on a wide choice of products from mugs, t-shirts, aprons, totes, and long sleeved shirts. Embroidery or silkscreen. More options and sizes than previously available!

Doors open on our new on-line storefront, January 31, 2017. The web address is http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/logowear
In order to get the longest life out of Varroa control products, rotation is essential. Mite resistance can develop in a short period of time and that is why it is key to rotate your control materials with products like Apistan®. Rotating on an annual or semi-annual basis with products that have different modes of action will help manage mite resistance. Start your rotation program with Apistan®.

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Keeping in Touch….Find a Local Association

Ashtabula County Beekeepers
https://www.facebook.com/AshtabulaCountyBeekeepersAssoc/

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

Black Fork Beekeepers
http://blackforkbeecclub.com/

Brown County Beekeepers
www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org

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

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

Central Ohio Beekeepers
www.centralohiobeekeepers.org

Clinton County Beekeepers
buckleyfarm@yahoo.com

Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers
www.columbianamahoningbeekeepers.org/

Coshocton County Beekeepers
www.coshoctonbeekeepers.com

East Central Beekeepers
www.e-coba.org

Geauga County Beekeepers
www.geaugacountybeekeepers.org

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers
www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

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

Greene County Beekeepers
www.gcbeekeepers.com

Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers
www.guernsey-noblebeekeepers.com

Harrison County Beekeepers
bobhooker2010@gmail.com

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

Jefferson County Beekeepers
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reidapiary@bright.net

Lorain County Beekeepers
www.loraincountybeekeepers.org

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

Medina County Beekeepers
www.medinabeekes.com

Miami Valley Beekeepers
www.mvbeekeepers.org

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

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

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers
www.facebook.com/NorthwestOhioBeekeepers

Portage County Beekeepers
https://sites.google.com/site/portagecountybeekeepers/

Richland Area Beekeepers
www.richlandareabeekeepers.com/

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers
www.srvbeekeeping.com

Scioto Valley Beekeepers
www.sciotovalueybeekeepers.com

Southwestern Ohio Beekeepers
www.swohiobeekeepers.com/home

Stark County Beekeepers
www.starkbeekeepers.org

Summit County Beekeepers
www.summitbeekeepers.com

Tri-County Beekeepers
www.tricountybeekeepers.org

Tri-State Beekeepers Assn.
www.tristatebeekeepers.com

Trumbull County Beekeepers
www.trumbullcountybeekeepers.org

Tuscarawas County Beekeepers Club
www.tuscarawascountybeecclub.com

Urban Beekeepers of Columbus
https://www.facebook.com/groups/629509607177176/

Warren County Beekeepers
www.warrencountybeekeepers.org

West Central Ohio Beekeepers
www.wcoba.com
**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.

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**OSBA Election Results**

During the OSBA Fall Conference, members voted to re-elect the following Directors:

- **Top of Ohio:** Dwight Wells
- **Erie Basin:** Tom Rathbun
- **Maumee Valley:** Dwight Wilson

Our membership also voted to stagger the terms of OSBA Executive Board members starting with in 2018.

Congratulations to Dwight, Tom and Dwight for their willingness to support beekeepers across Ohio.

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**OSBA Fall Conference 2017**

Remember to reserve **November 4, 2017** on your calendar for the OSBA Fall Conference at Tolles Career and Tech Center in Plain City, OH. Over 500 enthusiastic beekeepers attended the fun-filled educational day that also included a record breaking number of busy vendors. This year’s conference will be a not-to-miss event.

See you in Plain City!
Editor’s Corner: Terry Lieberman-Smith

Winter; a slow time? That is such an old wives’ tale. OSBA entered 2017 full steam ahead! Here are just a few of the behind the scenes activity:

- Reviewed survey results
- OSBA Strategic Planning Meeting for OSBA Board
- Shared with the Ohio Fair Managers Association the list of Ohio Certified Honey Judges
- Price shopped and ordered components for 1000 Apiary Diagnostic Kits
- Finished work on the ADK Manual
- OSBA Membership Campaign 2017
- Lining up details for the OSBA 2017 Fall Conference, November 4 at Tolles Career and Tech Center
- Meeting with NEXUS to encourage pollinator habitat planting over pipeline construction
- Coordinating New Beekeeper Outreach Mailings
- Working with associations on becoming part of the OSBA Affiliate Program.

Just to name a few activities that keep the OSBA hive buzzing year round.

We are here to help support beekeepers and promote beekeeping in Ohio. 2017 will be another exciting and exhilarating year….don’t miss out! Show your support by renewing your membership to OSBA.

Honey Labeling (Continued from page 20)

Requirements:  Complete application for registration annually and submit required fee.
Forms Needed:  N/A
Submit to:  Ohio Dept. of Agriculture
          Plant Health
          8995 East Main Street
          Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
          Phone: (614) 728-6373
          Fax: (614) 728-6412
Email: Apiary@agri.ohio.gov

Third, exempted maple syrup, sorghum, and honey may be sold only at the following locations: a licensed Retail Food Establishment or Food Service; registered Farm Market, Farmers Market or Farm Product Auction; or from the site of production. For these venues to be considered exempt, they must be registered with the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Division of Food Safety. There are additional venues where you may also sell your honey, but the location must meet the proper requirements of either being exempt of properly licensed.

Finally, these regulations allow you to sell your honey within the state of Ohio. If you would like to sell your honey across state lines you would need to follow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations. In 2014 they issued “Draft Guidance for Industry: Proper Labeling of Honey and Honey Products” found here: http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/ucm389501.htm. According to the website, “Contains Nonbinding Recommendations Draft—Not for Implementation.” If you have questions about selling your honey across state lines, contact the Food and Drug Administration or visit their website at: http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Industry/ucm322302.htm.

To summarize, the act of beekeeping and the subsequent selling of honey is regulated in Ohio. If you would like to learn more, you can review the Ohio Revised Code sections 3715, 3717, and 909. I would suggest however, if you have questions about beekeeping and or selling of bees, honey, or beeswax that you begin by reviewing the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s website: http://www.agri.ohio.gov/, contact them directly if you need additional information, or reach out to me and I will be happy to help you find the needed information.
2017 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

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

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
- Oasis Pollinator Seeds

And remember: Gift certificates from our advertisers are appropriate year-round!
Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2017 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)/for 1 year
☐ $15.00 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)
☐ As an OSBA member, 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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Send news about your bees and your experiences, as well as any corrections, letters, comments, photographs, story suggestions, interviews, and additional requests to:

Terry Lieberman Smith
PO Box 24181
Dayton, OH 45424

Or email: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com.