Beekeeping is no longer just putting bees out in the back forty pasture, plopping on some honey supers, removing supers, and putting in an entrance reducer on the hive for winter. Replacement bees are no longer $45 per package. By employing proper monitoring techniques, beekeepers have the ability to make informed decisions to take actions to ensure the health of their hives. If you do not monitor your hives on a regular basis, you may not catch the early signals of a potential hive crisis.

We are constantly told to monitor, test, check, inspect…..but up until now, no one has provided instructions or tools in a convenient, easy-to-use package. OSBA, with the help of 50 beta-testers, has put together the “essentials” for monitoring. Its more than just a bucket-- its your portable lab. Drone comb, 3 styles of small hive beetle traps, magnifying lens, sugar shake jar, flashlights (and batteries), queen marking tube, queen marking pen, uncapping scratcher, grid decal for white board, bucket, and full color, laminated, spiral bound Monitoring for Sustainability manual.

Just as parents monitor the activities of an infant, how much they eat, how often they empty, when they get their first teeth… beekeepers must also track hive activities in order to keep the hive alive.

Thanks to the hard work of many OSBA volunteers, we have compiled 1000 Apiary Diagnostic Kits. 700 are reserved for the new beekeepers who qualify for a complimentary kit through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant that was awarded to OSBA. (See page 5 for details.)

For those of you who want a kit, but may not qualify for the complimentary version, you are still in luck. OSBA has a limited inventory of ADKs available for purchase through our website for only $49.99, plus shipping.

If you already have most of the items in the kit, but you really want the manual, we have those available separately, for $24.99.

As a special incentive to encourage more beekeepers to monitor their hives, OSBA is offering a bulk discount to local associations if they purchase 10 or more manuals. See our website for details.

www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/adk
Meet Some of our Speakers

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren
His research program focuses on assessing the ecological risk of pest management strategies and developing long-term solutions for sustainable food systems.

http://bluedasher.farm/

Meghan Milbrath is an academic specialist in the Department of Entomology and is the coordinator of the Michigan Pollinator initiative, a program started at MSU to address concerns related to pollinators and pollination, and to work on understanding the threats and solutions for bees in Michigan. She also owns and manages Sand Hill Apiary, a small livestock and queen rearing operation in Munith, MI.
Ohio Welcomes New Beekeeping Associations

Did you know Ohio has some new colonies? Here’s the scoop on three new groups...

Black Swamp Beekeepers Association- BSBA

BSBA supports beekeepers in the Black Swamp Basin area of Northwest Ohio. The Association will be an affiliate of Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OBSA) and welcomes anyone in the area. President Jamie Walters, created BSBA with support from Vice President - Doug Franzdorf, Treasurer - Jeff Ort, Secretary - Shelly Ort, as well as Chairpersons - Audra Smith & Bill Brubaker. BSBA is offering 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, & youth with free memberships and mentoring, to get involved for a great experience. Through the association, they want to help, support, and educate the area with the community apiary, bee talks, pollinator presentations, and more.

The meetings are held at OSU Defiance Extension Office, 6879 Evansport Rd., Defiance, OH 43512. GPS coordinates are correct. The meeting starts promptly at 7 pm with a business meeting followed by a speaker/presenter on bee related subjects and issues. This year they will be concentrating on the community apiary, outreach programs, and working with the new beekeeping class of 62 people. Please visit their FB page at Black Swamp Beekeepers Association for the meeting schedule and line-up. They welcome beekeepers, bee enthusiasts, and the general public to become members of BSBA. Questions contact 419.438.7335

Ohio River Bee Society- ORBS

ORBS (previously Lawrence County Bee Association) is a multi-county group based in Lawrence County. Leadership includes Margaret Reid, President, Joyce Rumsey, VP, Misty Akers, Secretary, and Gina Hankins, Treasurer. The group meets at the Hamilton Township Fire Dept, St Rt 93, on the 4th Tuesday of each month (January-November) at 7:00 p.m. Visit their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1308698889164047/

Bowling Green Beekeepers- BG Bee

This new meet-up group clusters the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Bowling Green Woodland Mall, Big Fab Lab. If you are in the Bowling Green area, buzz on by and check them out!

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”
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♦ 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.

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.

Arinda Bell
Philip Starry
Robert Zirker III
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?

OSBA Strategic Planning Meeting

Before the OSBA Fall Conference, your OSBA Board held its first ever Strategic Planning Meeting (SPM), to help develop a list of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT).

On January 28, 2016, eleven board members met with strategic planning facilitator Iris Meltzer. The mission statement was reviewed, and the consensus was that the mission statement lacked an indication of why OSBA serves beekeepers. That concern led to a revised mission statement for OSBA

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association promotes sustainable beekeeping by providing education and training, resources and outreach to beekeepers, local beekeepers assn., and the general public.

Having completed the SWOT analysis, Ms. Meltzer moved the group to developing objectives. She explained that objectives build on strengths, overcome weaknesses, work with opportunities, and address threats. They are designed to tell you how much will be accomplished and when.

Activities or projects that are on-going may remain on-going objectives, but numeric goals and dates may change. She directed the group to identify who they exist to serve and how they would want to be helped. She also outlined the three kinds of objectives, behavioral, community level and process. Not every aspect of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats need to be specifically addressed by the identified objectives, but all must be consistent with the mission of the organization.

A list of 20 objectives was generated and then rated by importance. The two primary goals this year is to distribute the 700 complimentary ADKs, and develop a syllabus to train new beekeepers.

Iris also suggested that as we move toward implementation of our priority strategies and determine if there are other objectives that deserve attention, we will find it helpful to determine implications for funding and resources as well as whether our current structure is sufficient and conducive to the plans.

These, and future, planning sessions will help OSBA provide improved support for beekeepers across Ohio.

In an interesting note, since the OSBA SPM, we have heard of at least 4 other state associations who are starting to develop their own Strategic Plans for their states.
Update on the OSBA Certified Master Beekeeper Program

The Master Beekeeping Program has accepted a new Chair, Emily Mueller, from Mueller Honey Bee. She will now be the point of contact for new and existing MBP enrollees. Emily is an active member in the Summit County Beekeepers Association and serves as the Summit County Inspector.

The program focus will be on educating our members and encouraging the beekeeper’s personal growth within beekeeping. We invite you to reach out with any questions or concerns you have with your enrollment and ask that you bear with us as the program takes on a new face. We look forward to seeing more members join us on our journey of becoming exceptional beekeepers!

OSBA Traveling Speakers

Has Your Club Scheduled a Presentation?

Thanks to the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant, OSBA has a team of Traveling Speakers. These Traveling Speakers will provide local associations with a Monitoring for Sustainability presentation, free of charge!

Our team includes: Christine Cain, Peggy Garnes, John Grafton, Bob Hooker, Joseph Kovaleski, and Jamie Walters. The grant limits us to 30 presentations across the state, and we have already booked almost one-third of our grant required presentations.

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 Beekeeping Equipment (woodenware, wax) or Honey Bee 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.

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
Ohio Beekeeping

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### INCOME

- 4-H program: 100.00
- ADK-OSBA revenue (300 kits): 17,457.00
- ADK Grant (700 kits): 47,696.00
- Affiliate Services: 1,800.00
- Conference: 16,735.00
- DVD- educational program: 5,000.00
- General donations: 270.00
- Honey Judging Class: 1,500.00
- Master Beekeeping Program: 500.00
- Member dues: 15,360.00
- Newsletter advertising: 2,000.00
- Ohio State Fair Income: 300.00
- OSBA License Plate: 10,000.00
- OSBA Logo clothing: 800.00
- Save the Honey Bee Stickers: 600.00
- Seeds-Pollinator Habitat: 1,300.00

**Total Income**: 121,418.00

### EXPENSE

- 4-H Program expenses: 4,200.00
- ADK-OSBA Program (300 kits): 10,000.00
- ADK Project (700 kits): 47,696.00
- Advocacy (Oh Poll Week): 3,500.00
- Affiliate Program Exp.: 1,800.00
- Awards: 1,200.00
- Bank and PayPal fees: 2,000.00
- Business Expenses: 200.00
- Master Beekeeping Prog Exp: 1,500.00
- DVD Education production costs: 1,950.00
- EAS Representative support: 600.00
- Facilities and Equipment: 300.00
- Grants from OSBA: 0.00
- *OSU Research: 0.00
- Honey Judging Class- Exp: 2,500.00
- Insurance: 1,000.00
- Member dues to outside groups: 500.00
- Lifetime members to CD: 5,000.00
- Memorials: 150.00
- Newsletter: 3,000.00
- Office Expenses: 1,000.00
- Ohio State Fair exp: 5,000.00
- Operations: 200.00
- OSBA license plate Marketing: 150.00
- OSBA logo clothing expenses: 500.00
- Promotion of OSBA: 5,000.00
- Publications: 500.00
- Research: 2,500.00
- Pollinator Habitat Program (Nexus,OPHI): 2,572.00
- Seeds- Pollinator Habitat mix: 400.00
- Travel- Board members: 2,500.00

**Total Expense**: 121,418.00

* 2-19-17 OSBA Board voted to move the $2500 from OSU Research to the 2017 OSBA Conference expenses to help pay for Dr. J. Lundgren to be main speaker.
OSBA Thanks the Volunteer Builders of the Apiary Diagnostic Kits (ADK)

OSBA would like to thank the following dedicated volunteers who donated many hours to compile all the components of the ADKs. We appreciate your commitment to helping beekeepers across Ohio.

Tim, Dawn and Tyler Arheit
Mike and Sheila Doseck
Jamie Walters
Terry Lieberman-Smith.

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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OSBA is Asking You to Take Action: Deadline Extended to April 19th

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued guidance for nutrition labels. Beginning in 2018 FDA will require packaged honey to include on the nutrition label both “Total Sugars” and “Added Sugars”. However, FDA does not distinguish between the two. Labels will need to include the same amount of grams of sugar under each category e.g. “17 grams of Total Sugar” and “17 grams of Added Sugars.” Keep in mind, products sold by companies qualifying for small business exemptions are one exception to this requirement. Small business exemptions are available for products sold in small volume (fewer than 100,000 units per year) by small companies (fewer than 100 employees). This label change will not affect all beekeepers immediately.

Eventually, it will create confusion across the honey industry and mislead the consumer about a natural product that is in actuality a healthier sweetener to add to food than processed white or brown sugar.

Additionally, FDA is requiring even fruit juices (with no corn syrup or sugar added) to also note on their labels “added sugar” and “total sugar.” The Citrus industry has secured an exemption. However, this label will simply be misleading to the consumer. FDA seeks to advise consumers about the “added sugar” to their diet, but this label will imply honey has “added sugars” to the honey, when it does not. Besides honey and maple syrup, and even the juice of fruit contain natural sugars, not “added sugar.”

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association is asking its members to send your comments to FDA today and let them know pure honey does not contain added sugars.

- Copy the text of the comment letter below
- Select this link to submit your comment [https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FDA-2016-D-44140002](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FDA-2016-D-44140002)
- Paste the text into the comment box
- Enter the requested information (you can submit a comment “anonymously”)
- Click on the CONTINUE button. Follow the prompts on the screen
- Comments appear in the docket within 24-48 hours.

**COMMENT LETTER you can copy and paste into the online docket**

As a member of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, I support the concerns of the American Honey Producers Association over the FDA requirement of packaged honey to include a nutrition label listing both “Total Sugars” and “Added Sugars. This requirement does not distinguish between the two sugar types. Therefore, labels will need to include the same amount of grams of sugar under each category e.g. “17 grams of Total Sugar” and “17 grams of Added Sugars.” This will confuse food consumers.

As a small scale beekeeper, this label language will not affect me directly in my sales at farmer’s markets, and to individual customers. However, if this label is implemented at the commercial beekeeping level it will begin the misinformation to food consumers that sugar is added to honey. Eventually, it will create confusion across the honey industry and mislead the consumer about a natural product that is in actuality a healthier sweetener to add to food than processed white or brown sugar.

As stated in 21 US Code §342 (b)(4), “A food shall be deemed to be adulterated… if any substance has been added thereto or mixed or packed therewith so as to...make it appear better or of greater value than it is.”

If consumers are informed through the Nutrition Facts label that honey contains “Added Sugars” then consumers may be led to believe that honey is adulterated, by the regulatory definition, with sugars added to develop or enhance its sweetness.

We realize that honey is added to foods in preparation or manufacturing and in that case it is clearly an added sugar in those foods and would therefore be labeled as “Added Sugars” on the Nutrition Facts label. However, pure honey, itself, does not contain added sugars.

We share the desire for clear, understandable nutrition information to aid consumer choice. Our desire, as is the FDA’s, is to inform consumer food choices to promote public health without confusion or misbranding around pure honey.

As a beekeeper I encourage the FDA to consider listing the naturally occurring sugar content of 100% pure honey as a “Total Sugar” and not “Added Sugars.”
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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No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

Honeyed Party Mix

1 stick butter
3/4 c. brown sugar
3/4 c. honey
1 box each of Rice and Wheat Chex (or sub Corn Chex)
2 c. nuts (mixed is my favorite)
Line a large baking sheet with foil or parchment paper.

Preheat oven to 250.

Melt butter in a microwave safe bowl. Add sugar and honey. Stir til blended.

In a LARGE bowl, add the cereal and nuts. Mix well. Pour the honey butter mixture over the cereal and mix well.

Pour coated cereal onto prepared pan.

Bake for about 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.

When done, spread out on a sheet of parchment paper to cool and dry.

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Save The Honey Bee Stickers

These 2 inch circular stickers are available on the OSBA website. Our stickers are perfect for both indoor and outdoor events when you want to spread the word about beekeeping. Less mess than honey sticks, and the price is right too.

1,000 stickers for only $25.50 (not including shipping). Place your order now and pick them up at the conference—save shipping and handling costs.

www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/stickers/
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.

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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Older Bee Book Review

New books on beekeeping appear almost monthly. Topics range from the practical to the nearly absurd. As a respite, I thought it might be interesting to go back and review some of the old standards. Many of these authors were among the pre-eminent beekeepers and researchers of their generation. While most of the listed books are long out of print, they remain a must read for anyone interested in specific beekeeping technique. If you’re hopelessly hooked, many are just simply fun to read. [Due to the resurgence in beekeeping a majority of these books have been reprinted or are available as online downloads or PDF files. Others are available used through Google books or Amazon.com]

**The ABC & XYZ of Beekeeping**, published by the A.I. Root Co.
The 35th edition published in 1974 was the book I started out with, consequently I’m slightly biased. While the alphabetizing is a little difficult for the startup beekeeper, the information is rock solid. Although the book was periodically revised, the basic how-to information has remained fairly constant over the years. As a result, the 1940 to 1950 editions are every bit as useful as the later 1970 to 1990 editions. A completely revised edition was published in 2007. Because of its wide distribution, older copies of ABC & XYZ are readily available at a very reasonable price.

**The Hive and the Honey Bee**, published by Dadant & Sons.
This is a comprehensive book in the same vein as the ABC & XYZ, except it’s presented in chapter format. It has also been revised on a periodic basis. My favorite is the extensively revised 1975 or subsequent edition(s). If I were to be stranded on the proverbial desert island, I would hope this book was among my possessions.

**Contemporary Queen Rearing**, by Harry Laidlaw Jr. published in 1979 by Dadant & Sons. If you’re interested in queen rearing, Contemporary Queen Rearing is the go to resource. Great text and superb photos put this book in a category by itself.

**American Honey Plants**, by Frank C. Pellett, published in its current form in 1947 by Dadant & Sons. This is the most recent book on honey plants. George Ayers writes an excellent monthly honey plants column in the American Bee Journal. Hopefully, that information will appear in book form in the not so distant future. In the meantime, American Honey Plants is a must have for anyone interested in honey plant flora.

**Bees are my Business**, by Harry Whitcomb Jr. copyright 1955. This is a fascinating story of one man’s beekeeping odyssey. If you’re considering beekeeping as a business this is an absolute must read. If you’re a hobby beekeeper, it’s still a must read. Enjoy!

**A Living From Bees**, Frank C. Pellett, copyright 1943.
This is an excellent account of beekeeping as seen through the eyes of a truly master beekeeper. With the exception of mites and the related issues, this book gives the reader a concise accurate account of beekeeping and its many related facets. This is real hands-on, how-to beekeeping.

**Honey Farming**, by R.O.B. Manley, published in 1946 by Faber and Faber Ltd. London. R.O.B. Manley was undoubtedly the best known British beekeeper throughout the middle of the last century. As he stated in the preface, “Honey Farming is not written for the novice, and in writing it I have assumed some considerable experience on the part of the reader”. As such, this is an interesting read for any serious beekeeper. Available online as reprint or downloadable PDF

I included this book simply because it’s a very interesting read. Mr. Field does British beekeeping proud with an apt description of his life’s work. In the process he points out the vast disparity between beekeeping in England and that practiced in the U.S.

**Older Books**

**Advanced Bee Culture**, by W.Z. Hutchinson, third edition published in 1905
W.Z. Hutchinson of Flint, Michigan, was one of the premier beekeepers of his day. He was for many years the editor of the Bee-Keepers’ Review. Advanced Bee Culture was in his words “the summing up of the best that has appeared in the Bee-Keepers’ Review during the eighteen years of its existence”. This is a very enjoyable read on beekeeping as it existed around the turn of the last century.

**BEEKEEPING**, by E.F. Phillips, copyright 1915 and 1928
Everett Franklin Phillips was a professor of apiculture at New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University. The subtitle of BEEKEEPING reads; A Discussion of the Life of the Honeybee and the Production of Honey. An important book in its day, Beekeeping is a worthy addition (Continued on page 16)
to any collection of older bee books. A successor work of the same name was copyrighted in 1960 by John E. Eckert and Frank R. Shaw.

**Practical Queen Rearing**, by Frank C. Pellett, copyright 1918. Any of Frank Pellett’s books are worthwhile collector’s items, and this is certainly no exception. This quaint little book details with the specifics of queen rearing as practiced 100 years ago. It’s amazing how little things have changed. Personally, I’m fascinated with the old queen mating yard photos. If only I could travel back in time.

**Honey Plants of North America**, by John H. Lovell, published in 1926 by the A.I. Root Co. An excellent book, it gives a detailed account of U.S. honey plants circa 1926. This is a truly beautiful book. The paper quality is superb, and the cover features raised print on a gilded gold background. This is a worthy addition to any beekeeping library.


**Handbooks, Circulars, and Bulletins**

The following examples barely qualify as the tip of the iceberg. The older beekeeping literature is rife with this type of extension information. Due to the passage of time, and relatively small printings, it’s nearly impossible to locate original copies. (The majority of this type information was provided on a request basis) Your best bet is to search the on-line digital libraries. An example is provided in the last review. Good Luck!

**BEEKEEPING IN THE UNITED STATES**, USDA Handbook 335, published in 1980

As the title suggests, this handbook presents a clear, concise summary of beekeeping in the U.S. It describes the basics of colony management for honey production and crop pollination. It also discusses the breeding and genetics of honey bees. There is a chapter on the production of queens, package bees and nuclei. Diseases and pests of the honey bee are also covered in some detail. There are some excellent pencil drawings of both EFB and AFB disease. The authors include many of the top researchers of that era. This is an excellent resource for anyone involved in beekeeping, at any level!

**Beekeeping in the Midwest**, by Elbert Jaycox, Professor of Apiculture; University of Illinois; Published in 1976 as circular 1125. Dr Jaycox was a commercial beekeeper prior to becoming the extension specialist in Illinois. Beekeeping in the Midwest covers equipment basics and the seasonal management of honey bee colonies. This book is chock full of practical management tips. It’s an excellent resource for new beekeepers, or anyone thinking of expanding an existing operation. This item was published as a circular, but marketed as a book. It’s still available new or used at Amazon.com.

**Farmers’ Bulletin 1198**, published by the USDA in June 1921

When I started keeping bees in the mid 70’s this bulletin was touted as the ultimate authority on swarm control. Written by George Demuth a comb honey producer from Peru, Indiana, and long time Gleanings in Bee Culture editor, it lives up to its billing. While not the easiest of reads, this little gem is loaded with practical swarm control information.


Arguably, I’ve left the best for last. This bulletin is literally worth its weight in gold. Page for page, the practical hands-on information contained in its ninety two pages is unequaled in any of the other beekeeping literature I’m familiar with. While directed primarily at Michigan apiculturists, it’s equally applicable for beekeepers in surrounding states. And with a little adaptation, it’s appropriate for beekeepers almost anywhere! This bulletin is available as a downloadable PDF from the HathiTrust digital library.

**OSBA Certified Master Beekeeper Brain Teasers**

Wondering what type of questions are on the OSBA Certified Master Beekeeper Journeyman Test?

True or False: Does crystallization of honey trigger fermentation by elevating moisture levels?

_For the Answer, check out: The Hive and the Honey Bee, c1992, page 690._
EAS 2017 at the University of Delaware, in Newark Delaware

Peggy Garnes, OSBA EAS Representative

Have you ever considered taking a “Beekeeping Vacation”?

Well now is the time to make your plans as EAS 2017 will be taking place at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE. EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society) is one of the largest noncommercial beekeeping organizations in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Every summer EAS conducts its week long Annual Conference of lectures and workshops in one the 26 member states or Canadian provinces. This year’s EAS conference will be held at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE, from July 31 to August 4. The conference usually brings in about 600 to 800 beekeepers from around the world to attend.

The conference is made up of the Short Course, running from Monday to Wednesday, and the conference proper, running from Wednesday to Friday, with Wednesday the overlap day. Normally about half of the attendees stay the whole week with the other half attending just the conference. The Short Course will contain classes for beekeepers of all levels and special events such as an open apiary with Langstroth, Warre’ and Top Bar Hives, a microscope workshop on bee anatomy, a Honey Show for you to enter your bee products, and classes on all aspects of beekeeping. The conference proper will consist of over 100 different talks about all aspects of beekeeping including classes on Queen rearing, Mead and Beer brewing and on IPM (Integrated Pest Management).

I first attended EAS several years ago, and the experience was so rewarding that I became a life time member. I’ve tried not to miss an EAS conference since. Every year I go with a set of objectives in mind that I then try to find the solutions to them from the best minds in Beekeeping. Maybe the best thing about the week-long EAS is that I get to talk “bees” all week long and no one says “Really? Is that all you can talk about?” You can find out about all the specific topics covered and how to sign up at the EAS webpage here http://www.easternapiculture.org/.

I hope to see you there. Come and join the fun! EAS 2018 is scheduled to be held in Virginia.

WHERE IN THE WEB WINNER!!

Congratulations to Jamie Walters for his winning entry in the Where in the Web is the Rev contest.

OSU 2017 DACUM. (L-R) Ed Forney, Charles Walter, Dwight Wilson, Rev. L.L. Langstroth, James Tew, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Jamie Walters, Bob Filsburn. Not present Dave Noble
On November 30, 2016 thirty beekeepers and bee researchers from around the country convened at the Nationwide 4-H Center on the Ohio State campus in Columbus to talk about the future of Varroa mite control in the United States. Travel expenses for the meeting were provided by the USDA's “Specialty Crop Research Initiative” -- a program that seeks to improve the productivity and profitability of a broad range of bee-pollinated crops.

A number of migratory beekeepers made the trip to Columbus, including Zac Browning, George Hansen, Chris Hiatt, Randy Oliver, and Gene Brandi. Our Ohio beekeepers also attended, including Isaac Barnes and Joe Latshaw. Bee researchers in attendance included Jamie Ellis from the University of Florida, Michelle Flenniken from Montana State University, Ramesh Sagili from Oregon State University, Elina Nino from the University of California at Davis and Jay Evans from the USDA Bee Lab in Beltsville, Maryland.

The conversation with beekeepers made it clear that mite control problems affect all beekeepers and that no approach is completely reliable at controlling mites under every circumstance. There was an emphasis on regular mite monitoring to gauge the effectiveness of previous mite control applications and to time subsequent treatments. The most popular method of mite control continues to be ApiVar (amitraz). Beekeepers also reported using most every other available treatment at the times of year when they are most appropriate or effective (e.g. oxalic acid in winter).

We researchers discovered that beekeepers are in great need of new approaches to manage mites to augment or replace amitraz and to better share information and target use of other chemical and non-chemical control approaches. We will take the insights from this meeting and build a multi-institutional multi-state grant to submit to the USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative with the goal of developing new approaches to varroa mite control for all U.S. beekeepers.
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Drone Brood Removal for Mite Control

Hannah Whitehead

Drone brood removal (DBR) is a non-chemical trapping tool for killing mites. It was developed in Europe in the 1990s, and today is widely used by European beekeepers.

The method was developed in response to research showing that mites are more likely to invade drone cells than worker cells. Not only that, but mites produce more offspring in drone cells, because drones take longer to develop than workers. Combined, this means that as many mites emerge from 50-60 drone cells as emerge from 1,000 worker cells. And on average, there are 8x more mites in drone cells than in worker cells.

Drone brood removal allows the beekeeper to use this biological knowledge to bait, trap, and manually remove mites from the hive. Here are the basic steps:

1. **Insert one or more drone frames into the hive.** They should be placed in the upper brood box, toward the edges of the brood nest. The frames can be foundation-less, large-cell foundation, or medium frames in a deep box. It is useful to mark the top of the frame so it is easy to find again.

2. **After a week or so, check the frames.** In the beginning, it may take the bees some time to draw out the drone frames and lay eggs.
   - **Note:** Sometimes hives don’t draw out the frames. This may be because the hive is too small or weak to produce drones. Or it may be because the hive already has sufficient drone brood on other frames. In the second case, the beekeeper can destroy or remove existing drone comb in order to encourage the bees to draw out the trap drone frame. It is also important to draw out the frames in the spring, when the hive is producing wax.

3. **Wait 2-3 weeks.** Drones are capped on day 10 of development. They emerge as adults on day 24. It is important to remove the frame sometime during this window (see next step).

4. **When the drone frames are capped, remove them from the hive and kill the mites.** There are two main ways to dispose of the mites:
   - A. Freeze the frame for at least 48 hours.
   - B. Scrape the contents of the frame onto the ground. (You can then feed the contents to your chickens!)

5. **Immediately replace the capped frames with new drone frames.** These may be foundation-less frames, medium frames in a deep box, or frames with undrawn large-cell foundation.

6. **Repeat.** Swap frames every 2-3 weeks.
   - A. To continuously trap mites, you can stagger two drone frames, swapping one out every week.
   - **B. If you kill mites by freezing frames, you can re-use the wax comb.** When you remove a capped frame from the hive, replace it with a previously frozen frame. Allow the frame to thaw before inserting it into the hive. The bees will clean out the dead pupae and re-use the wax cells.

In general, there are two different ways to implement DBR, appropriate for different beekeeping operations. They are based in whether the mites are killed by **cutting or scraping the drone cells off of the frame** or by **freezing the frame.** The cutting method is typically used in Europe. Each strategy has it’s own advantages and disadvantages. See the following diagrams for more information about each method:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Cutting Method</th>
<th>Freezing Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logistically easier: don’t have to move frames back and forth to the freezer.</td>
<td>Can re-use wax - waste fewer hive resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t need freezer space</td>
<td>Can use all season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
<th>Cutting Method</th>
<th>Freezing Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bees have to re-draw wax each time a frame is swapped</td>
<td>Have to transport frames between hive and freezer.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can only use in the spring</td>
<td>Requires sufficient freezer space</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Drone Comb (Continued from page 26)

Frequently asked questions:

Isn’t it a problem to kill all of the drones in a hive? Yes, it would be problematic if beekeepers eliminated all drones in their hives. However, drone brood removal does not kill all drones for several reasons:

1. Most hives contain patches of drone comb scattered throughout the hive, so destroying one or two trap frames would eliminate some but not all drones.
2. Most beekeepers apply drone brood removal during only part of the season, usually in the spring. This is often constrained by wax production (see “cutting method” above).
3. Finally, and most importantly, many DBR users uncap a section of drone brood before removing the frame, in order to check for mites. They then only remove frames from hives that contain mites. This has important genetic consequences for the bee yard: the beekeeper eliminates drones from hives that are more susceptible to mites, and floods the local environment with drones from hives that have lower mite levels, and perhaps more resistant traits.

If I insert a frame and don’t remove it, am I “breeding” mites? I’m worried about removing frames on time. The science is unclear on this. Since more mites emerge from drone brood than worker brood, it would follow that allowing drone cells to emerge would boost the mite population. However, hives regulate the amount of drone comb that they maintain. Hives that are managed with drone frames have been shown to contain less drone comb elsewhere in the hive. In our study, we similarly

(Continued on page 24)
found no difference in the amount of total drone brood between DBR and non-DBR colonies. So allowing a drone frame to emerge may be no different than simply not using DBR at all.

Of course, the best answer is to have a good schedule and remove frames on time. See above for two DBR management options.

Experimental results

Multiple studies have found that removing drone brood significantly reduces mite levels. At Ohio State, we conducted a study on drone brood removal in collaboration with six local beekeepers over two years. We only used one drone frame in each DBR hive. Both years, at the end of the summer, the hives that received drone brood removal had on average lower mite levels than the hives that received no mite treatment. However, the difference was more pronounced during the first summer than the second summer.

Overall, lessons we learned were:

1. Using one drone frame is effective, but not dramatically so. To increase efficacy, use two drone frames.
2. It is tricky to remember to remove frames on time. Make sure to write it on your calendar. Consider only using DBR during one part of the season (ie. during the spring), so that you can implement it intensively and consistently.
3. Only use DBR on strong hives – weak hives do not draw out drone frames.
4. Draw out drone frames early in the spring, when hives are most eager to produce wax and drones.

In general, experts recommend combining DBR with other tactics, including strong genetics, good nutrition, a brood break, and miticide applications if mites exceed damaging thresholds. Beekeepers can also increase DBR’s efficacy by using two drone frames rather than one, and by staggering frame removal in order to continuously trap mites.

Plan now for your winning entries at the Ohio State Fair Honey Contest. From cakes baked with honey, to cakes (chunks) of wax, even the beginner beekeeper can show off products of the hive. Get those BBQ’s fired up and start formulating your Honey BBQ winner entry! This year we will be awarding $780 worth of prize money.

Here are some important facts:

**Entry Deadline:** June 20, 2017

**Online Entry Only:** http://oharts.fairmanager.com/

Entry Information will be mailed to you in July.

Rules:

http://ohiostatefair.com/culinary/

### CLASS: Honey Baking

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Breads (full loaf)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Brownies (6-8 pcs.)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pies (full pie)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Cakes (full cakes; unfrosted)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cookies (6-8; unfrosted)</td>
<td>$30</td>
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**Best of Show (classes 1-5) ....................... Rosette**

### CLASS: Honey

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Water White and Extra White</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. White 34mm</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Xtra Light Amber to Light Amber</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Amber and Dark Amber above</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Creamed/Granulated</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Best of Show (classes 6-10) ....................... Rosette**

Honey Bee Photography has moved to the Creative Arts Division #4209, Photography, Classes 4 and 10

Enter your Honey BBQ Sauce in the Culinary Arts Division #3305, Sauces, Class 4
Association Corner

From Alex Zomchek - Miami Valley Region:

**Butler County Beekeepers Association** presented OSBA 4-H Sponsorship winner, Daisy Ray, with her equipment at their monthly meeting. The BCBA used the opportunity to conduct a hive building workshop where dad, daughter, and members all shared some tips and tricks of equipment building. This in turn led to a request for more seasonal mentorship workshops to include queen grafting, nosema testing, a smokers & smoker fuels competition, and more.

**Greene County Beekeepers Association** will have their annual Spring Clinic in April. The public is invited to see how beekeepers prep their bees for a busy foraging season.

**Warren County Beekeepers** presented their OSBA 4-H Sponsorship winner, Ben Holliday, with his equipment at their March meeting.

From Peggy Garnes – Western Reserve Region:

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association** is busy working on their May 20th Field Day/Conference at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds with Dr. Thomas Seeley as their Keynote Speaker. GCBA extends a warm welcome to the 109 new members who took the Beginner Beekeeping Class in February. Pictured below are their two Scholarship Winners Isaac and Corbin.

**Lorain County Beekeepers Association** is already coordinating their LCBA Fair Rules and Guidelines. Their 23rd Annual Field Day is Saturday, June 3rd from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Queen Right Colonies, Ltd.

The **Medina County Beekeepers** held two beginner classes this year, a 2-day Saturday class and a 5 evening Tuesday class. We welcome all the newbees and we are looking forward to sharing our beekeeping world with them. In spite of the challenges that current pests and diseases pose, the new beekeepers are plunging into the craft. Several field days have been scheduled for hands-on experience to assist them in monitoring their new hives. Here’s hoping for a strong honey flow and a cooperative Mother Nature.
From Mike Doseck - Top of Ohio:

**Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association** first quarter was very busy with the January meeting covering the preparation of equipment and what to expect as warmer weather approaches. February started with 25 people attending the 3rd annual Beginning Beekeeping class. The February meeting, welcomed the new members and also presented Kayla Lennartz one of the OSBA-4H Partnership awards. Present to make the award was Ron Stucke, Kayla’s mentor, and Tim Arheit, OSBA President. March meeting’s guest speakers, Peter and Laurie Dotson from BeePothecary discussed products from the hive and how to prepare propolis for sale. Also during the meeting, Brette Soucie volunteered to finish the years term as Secretary.

During last quarter GGLBA tried co-opering and working together to bulk order bee equipment and feeding supplements, with a lot of response from the members. As members of the GGLBA, they were able to save on buying in quantity and reducing or eliminating shipping costs. This success has opened the idea of creating a committee to coordinate this effort within the Club. Travis Moorman stepped up to head this committee at our March meeting.

Second quarter will begin in April with Jamie Walters explaining the importance of hive monitoring with OSBA’s ADK kit. This will give last year’s and this year’s new beekeepers the chance to see the kit and ask questions about its usefulness. May has on schedule a presentation explaining the importance of making splits, making nucs and swarming. May will also be the time that all of the nucs the Club ordered is expected to arrive from Jim Kerns, Dwight Wilson and Tim Arheit. The June meeting will be VERY busy with answering lots of questions about “I have my bees, now what do I do?” Bob Hinschlagr, from our Club, will also make a power point presentation on Top Bar Hives. He will give us his experience from last year.

**Miami Valley Beekeepers Association** also presented their OSBA 4-H Partnership winner, Noah Barga, with his beekeeping equipment. MVBA’s apiary, located at Brukner Nature Center, is a popular stop before the club meetings. The club is continuing their Emergency Action Kit, should a beekeeper find themselves in need of help to move bees during a flood or before a pesticide spray.

From Dwight Wilson and Brad Hibbard - 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. OSBA Traveling Speaker, Jamie Walters, provided the Monitoring for Sustainability presentation in March.

**Maumee Valley Beekeepers Association** completed their 3 part series for beekeepers on March 22nd. Their February guest speaker, Dwight Wilson, spoke about getting their honey entries ready for the county fair.
From Jeff Gabric - Heart of Ohio:

**Morrow County Beekeepers Association** held their first beginners bee class in January and indoctrinated 20 new beekeepers. Attendees said it was just what they were looking for and gave them the basics to get started on their journey.

**Central Ohio Beekeepers** completed their winter beginner beekeeping Classes.

**East Central Ohio Beekeepers** produced a 4H scholarship winner in Clay Vasko. Clay has been a member for over a year and is currently managing 4 hives under the tutelage of his mentor Mark Wilson.

**Scioto Valley Beekeepers** are getting set for their 2017 beginners classes. The dates for the Scioto Valley Beekeepers beekeeping class are April 12, 19 and 26, all Wednesday nights, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. This class is for those who want to learn how to successfully keep bees for pollination and honey production.

February guest speaker, Barb Bloetscher discussed Pests and Diseases. March guest speaker was OSBA Traveling Speaker, Peggy Garnes, on the topic of Monitoring for Sustainability.

Scioto Valley Beekeepers maintains 9 hives at Slate Run. At last check, all nine were doing well and a few were exceptional.

**Knox County Beekeepers** had 50 new beekeepers in their February beginners class. Their Bee Yard meeting, Queen Rearing class and Bee Yard picnic are already scheduled.

From Tom Rathbun - Erie Basin:

**Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association** has over 30 people signed up for its popular beginner beekeeping class.

**Black Fork Bee Club** presented OSBA 4-H Sponsorship Winner, Sophie Lucas, with her equipment.

**Richland Area Beekeepers Association** just finished up another Beginner Beekeeping Class. The club maintains hives in Kingwood and Malabar.
From Marishka Wile and Chris Dresel - Ohio Valley:

**Adams County Beekeepers Association** is diligently preparing for the spring 2017 beekeeping season. Their Feb 16th meeting kicked off the year with a discussion on what types of plants and flowers can be planted to attract bees, winter hive maintenance, and discussed their plans for the 2017 Youth Scholarship Program. Their scholarship program, backed by the Farm Bureau and Soil & Water Conservation District, provides youths in grades 7-12 the opportunity to experience responsibility and enjoyment through beekeeping; to engage in a activity to gain the potential to pursue beekeeping as a sideline or fulltime vocation; and educate youth in the art of beekeeping to promote a better understanding of the value of honey bees to our environment and the food chain. Selected applicants will receive a year membership in the Adams County Beekeepers Association, a beginning beekeeper guidebook, a complete set of woodenware, a nucleus hive, hive tools / protective gear, as well as mentoring by an Adams County Beekeepers Association member. ACBA meetings are held a 7pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Bible Baptist Church, 9840 State Route 41, West Union. For more information visit [https://www.facebook.com/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association-214316711916893/](https://www.facebook.com/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association-214316711916893/).

**Highland County Beekeepers Association** kicked off their season at the Feb 21st meeting in Hillsboro. President Tom House presented the group with a list of upcoming beekeeping events scheduled throughout the spring and led the association through a discussion of the current status of the colonies throughout the region. The discussion centered on the food stores within the hives and the actions members are taking to ensure enough food is available until the arrival of spring. Several members identified trees and flowers that have begun to bloom during the recent period of unseasonably warm weather. OSBA representatives presented information on the newly developed Apiary Diagnostic Kit, Oasis pollinator seed mix, as well as other initiatives currently underway. The Highland County Beekeepers Association monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Highland County Administration Building, 119 Governor Foraker Place, in Hillsboro. For more information visit [http://www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/index.html](http://www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/index.html).

**Brown County Beekeepers Association** has managed to keep busy during the start of the year. Throughout the winter, association members Gary Keuffer and Chris Dresel provided ‘Introduction to Beekeeping’ and ‘Gardening for Pollinators’ educational seminars at several local venues to inform many prospective beekeepers and enlighten those interested in gardening. In January, the association held an intermediate level beekeeping seminar to new beekeepers to provide additional information and identify those actions and activities necessary get started in beekeeping. The association’s Feb 14th meeting featured Kevin Hale, President of the Licking River Beekeeping Association (KY), who provided a briefing on how to produce 100 pounds of honey. This presentation provided members on actions that could be taken to maximize the honey production from their colonies and was very well received. BCBA Spring meetings (Mar/Apr/May) are scheduled for each second Tuesday at 7:00pm in the Western Brown High School Community Room, 476 W Main St, Mt Orab, OH. For more info visit [www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org](http://www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org).

**Crossroads Region:**

**Tri-County Beekeepers Association** is off to a great start for 2017. Another successful TCBA Beekeepers Workshop finished and planning already in progress for next year. Upcoming speakers for association meetings include OSBA Traveling Speaker Joseph Kovalesski, and Hannah Whitehead from the OSU Beelab.

**Coshocton County Beekeepers** have their meeting schedule set for the year, and will use the club’s apiary as a teaching tool for newer beekeepers. Apiary days include Package Release, Splits and Swarm Prevention, and Mite Treatment sessions.

**Tuscarawas County Beekeepers** have their Plant Swap, Field Day and Annual picnic already lined up for the next quarter.

**Buckeye Hills Region:**

**Athens County Beekeepers** held a free class for beginners at the Athens County Library.

**Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers** held another successful Honey Bee Expo in January.
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Finding Solutions

Have you ever been in a job situation when you are asked to be part of a team that needed to identify a problem, its causes, and possible solutions?

This is an outsiders view of the process involved in the FIRST Lego League annual competition. FIRST is an acronym: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. The first competition was held in 1998 and now has more than 255,000 participants from 88 countries. More information can be found at http://www.firstlegoleague.org/.

Central to the competition is the set of core values for participation including teamwork, the idea that discovery is more important than winning, friendly competition, learning together, sharing experiences and having fun finding solutions with guidance of coaches and mentors. The 2016/17 challenge was Animal Allies. The goal, solve the problem(s) with your project;

☑ Identify a problem when people and animals interact
☑ Design a solution that makes the interaction better for animals, people, or both
☑ Share your problem and solution with others

The judges score in three categories; presentation, adherence to core values and the robot task execution.

Nine homeschooled youths from the Cleveland area participated in the 2016-17 FIRST Lego League competition. The participants range in age from 8 to 14 years of age and with two coaches, Marcelo and Lynn. The team chose the name “The BORG”, Builders of Robotic Greatness. This was the third year the team participated in the competition. The Borg was given permission to use the Ohio State Beekeepers Association logo on their team shirts and I had the opportunity to interview the students and their coaches about the experience.

Q. Given the topic of Animal Allies, how did you narrow your choice to honey bees?
A. The team considered animals who they already knew had challenges; monarch butterflies disappearing, excessive deer populations, too many stray animals, honey bee population decline. They all like honey. They chose honey bees.

Q. How did you identify people’s interaction with bees?
A. Observation, asking questions and a survey which revealed some consistent answers. People are scared of bees. People do know the bees are good for environment. There is confusion regarding the difference between wasps, honey bees, yellow jackets, and stinging insects in general.

Q. In your research were you able to go to an apiary and observe a beekeeper?
A. Ms. Delores Watson, of the Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association (GCBA), brought the group to participate in her winterizing protocol. She pulled some frames for a close up look inside the hive and the group was able to see the queen. Queen Right Colonies welcomed the group to their facility for a tour.

Q. Where did you get your information regarding the challenges of honey bees?
A. The group heard Dr. James Tew speak at a GCBA meeting. Some of the members were able to speak to Dr. Reed Johnson at The Ohio State University. They sourced current new articles as well.

Q. What problem(s) did you find that needed a solution?
A. Decline in bee populations, lack of food, the need to protect the bees.

Q. How did you choose your final solution for the project?
A. They group considered what research was being done, what others had created to try and help bees and what they could most effectively do as a youth group. The Borg decided that education was very important for everyone and that people needed a way to find raw and local honey.

Q. How did you present your solution?
A. The Borg created a skit. The format was a farm cable talk show hosted by Grandpa and Jr. Honey. They brought on several guests to discuss the bee problem. Dr. Hive MD discussed the benefits of raw honey. Dr. Anita Ann Serr, an entomologist, discussed bee nutritional needs. Ima B Geek, technology expert, explained web site creation to help consumers find local honey.

At their table display, the distributed seed packets of clover donated by Wilson’s Feed Store and they created a robot to execute the defined tasks of the competition.

Q. How far did you advance in the competition?
A. The team advanced to the regional competition which was 37 teams. They did not advance to the state competition, but did win the Teamwork Core Value Award. They were also asked to perform their skit for all 37 teams and coaches. This was the first time in the past three years, (Continued on page 32)
Finding Solutions

to their knowledge, any group had been asked to present

to all participants and considered it a great honor.

Q. What were the biggest challenges you faced during

the process?

A. Figuring out how we could help the bees and the me-

chanical challenges with the robot.

Q. Do any of you think that you will become a beekeep-

er?

A. Isaac won the scholarship from GCBA and will receive

a basic starter hive kit and a package of bees. Many of

the groups homeschool meetings and activities are held

at Isaacs home, so all of the children can share the expe-

riences of the new hive.

Q. Do you have any plans to continue outreach on behalf

of honeybees?

A. They plan to talk to people about what they have

learned and, if asked, they would be happy to present

their skit to libraries, church groups, clubs, etc.

Q. Is there anything you want people to know about the

project or what you learned?

A. Don’t kill the dandelions. Live by the golden rule, treat

others how you like to be treated. We are a team. Buy

local raw honey.

The coaches and parents are proud of the team’s efforts.
The Borg’s website is up and running and managed by

Mrs. G and Isabella.

https://bee-educated.wixsite.com/bee-educated

Any Northeast Ohio beekeepers who would like to submit

information about their local honey for sale, please send

contact information to Lynnagonz35@yahoo.com.

FFL team in their skit costumes: Marcelo 8, Isaac 11, Vivienne 11, Autumn 12, Michael T 12, Michael D 13, Isabella 14, Gracelin 13, Jonathan 9
Dr. Chris Cripps, DVM, of Betterbee, Greenwich, NY gave an insightful series of beekeeping lectures on Honey Bees and the Veterinary Feed Directive to the Midwest Veterinary Conference attendees on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Veterinarians and beekeepers learned about beekeeping practices and how the new laws will affect them.

On Jan. 1, 2017, new federal regulations known as the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) took effect. The VFD is a rule of the Food and Drug Administration and is part of that agency’s direction to encourage more judicious oversight and control of the use of antimicrobial drugs in animal feed that is given to food-producing animals.

Dr. Cripps explained the honey bee life cycle, pests and diseases and how beekeepers are dealing with declining numbers of overwintered hives. The veterinarians came away with hard facts and will be able to assist the beekeeper in managing their honey bees while correctly medicating their hives when necessary.

Barb Bloetscher, State Apiarist from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, was in attendance to answer any questions from the audience regarding the state’s position on disease control. She offered her assistance to the veterinarians if they had questions regarding honey bee in the future.

The 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow was held in Galveston, Texas, at the San Luis Resort and Galveston Island Convention Center, January 10-14, 2017. This was a joint conference with American Beekeeping Federation and the American Honey Producers Association.

Carmen Conrad, Margaret Reid and Peggy Garnes attended a Delegate Luncheon for the American Beekeeping Federation and represented the State of Ohio. Carmen Conrad gave a brief accounting of the outreach programs and special grants that the Ohio State Beekeepers offer to the beekeepers in our state.

The Affiliate Program, Save the Honey Bee License Plate and the Apiary Diagnostic Kit were among the many programs Ohio State Beekeepers offer. Ohio Beekeepers Association was one of the top associations with extensive outreach programs and memberships.
Is Near-Zero Hive Loss Realistic or Even Possible? (Part II)

Alex Zomchek

Having grown up on a lake – swimming became my exercise of choice. Recently a colleague of mine who has recovered from heart surgery shamed me into swimming with him from Oxford, Ohio to Miami, Florida. Let me explain.

You obviously cannot physically swim such a route and the 1,180 miles would be a non-starter for all but the most intrepid of souls. The actual mileage is broken down to calories expended. You burn approximately five times the calories swimming vs. walking.

Long story short – it is still a considerable challenge and I have just 3 months from start to finish. What does this have to do with beekeeping in general and near-zero hive loss specifically?

Swimming to Miami like achieving near-zero hive losses are lofty challenges. Are they even possible? Is it realistic? And what does it actually take to achieve these goals?

We are still awaiting the final numbers from 2016 but current projections put state-wide hive mortalities north of 55% (again!). To put this in historical perspective; I started raising bees in the harsh, long winters of northern Wisconsin when I was ten where annual hive losses averaged just 3%.

Such high hive losses are almost becoming an expectation; particularly for newer beekeepers. But upon closer analysis not all hives losses are created equal. Some 80%+ of the 55% mortality is generally attributable to improper beekeeping. Some harsher critics have coined the term “PPB” (Piss Poor Beekeeping). I suggest this is too harsh and does not help fix the problem.

In a modern pests-and-diseases world inadequate and/or hands-off beekeeping is simply no longer an option. You have to develop a modest bee knowledge base; understand seasonal timing; and be proactive in managing colony issues as they come along.

I have been beating the “monitoring” drum for a while now. To achieve near-zero mortality you have to implement a real time, comprehensive inspection and treatment plan. In other words monitoring asks the 3Ws: 1) what to look for; 2) when, and how often to look; and 3) what specific action(s) to take when you encounter a problem(s).

This can seem overwhelming. But with all the bee facts and fictions noise out there it is important to keep in mind that we beekeepers only have to identify the few pests and diseases you actually have some control over. Then you have to acquaint yourself with the few remedies and manipulations we have in our arsenal.

As an aside there are some bee related maladies out there that are simply out of your hands. Prime examples are most bee gut viruses. Even though almost two dozen viruses have been identified in so many years there is very little to nothing you can do about them with the exception of better queen genetics (stronger colonies) and properly timed nutrition to keep some viruses from manifesting or limiting their effects.

Again, the good news is that most of the mortality culprits out there are under your control. With limited editorial space let me highlight the main issues that can lead to near-zero hive loss.

**Queen genetics.** Look for “survivor” stock from your bee supplier and from local beekeepers.

**Timely queen replacement.** Monitor your queen’s quality and quantity egg laying viability regularly. Replace as needed. Weak colonies seldom fix themselves.

**Nutrition.** Timely feed for starvation, stimulation, and nutrition. This usually leads to bigger, stronger, and healthier colonies all the while reducing pathogen loads and upping honey crops.

**Pests monitoring.** Most notably varroa(!), SHB (small hive beetle), wax moths. Understand the 3% varroa infestation treatment threshold together with accurate monitoring.

**Diseases monitoring.** Most notably AFB, EFB, nosema, chalk brood, and sac brood.

**Inspections.** Thorough and seasonally timed purposeful inspections. Missing issues or catching problems too late is paramount. Many newer beekeepers are often surprised with “exponential” or runaway biological growth problems. As with the growth in colonies, pests, and diseases: 1 begets 2 begets 4 begets, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, etc.. This is how a seed becomes a plant and how in just a matter of days or weeks you get catastrophic problem(s) in your hive(s).

**Timing.** Seasonal timing is often crucial. Ex: early in the year varroa is usually not a problem. It lags hive population growth, but can quickly get out of hand come mid-summer. Ounces of prevention instead of pounds of cure are the gold standard here.

**Efficacy or Effectiveness.** This often boils down to do-

(Continued on page 35)
ing too little too late. Is your miticide you installed working? Are your small hive beetle traps working? You must monitor the effectiveness of the treatments you implement. You cannot just assume they are working.

**Treatments.** You must familiarize yourself with the relatively few treatments a beekeeper actually has available to combat pests and diseases. Monitor to confirm your treatments or manipulations are working. Implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach by rotating treatments. What worked last year will not necessarily work this year. Keep in mind that multiple treatments are likely necessary throughout the bee season.

**Adopt a monitoring approach.** Beekeeping with a purposeful, timely, and proactive plan.

**Resource management.** Have replacement queens, SHB traps, miticides, et.al. on the shelf. Additionally, look for and augment honey, pollen, and water resources as needed.

**Notes.** Have a plan going in. Keep regular notes. Have a seasonal calendar with reminders.

This list is not exhaustive. It cannot be. Beekeeping is changing. Additionally there are confounding variables with every beekeeper such as a particular seasonal and local weather patterns, your location, forage, and more. The above laundry list can seem a bit daunting to newer beekeepers. So let me rephrase and capsulize the above to hopefully quell some fears and stoke the fires of ambition.

Again, beekeepers have just a handful of pests and diseases to learn and that we can control. We have just a handful of treatments to combat and control these pests and diseases.

To achieve near-zero hive losses you must adopt a monitoring methodology which minimally incorporates what you are looking for; when and how often you are looking; and what timely manipulations and/or treatments to apply.

This is today’s beekeeping. It has changed a lot from my 10 year old self. It is more complicated, but it is not unmanageable. Through attentive and proactive management practices beekeepers are achieving near-zero losses and so can you.

All this might sound like you have to become a bee-veterinarian to keep bees. Not so. But in today’s vernacular it would help to be a better bee-parent. Given the frustrations and associated expenses of high hive losses; it will certainly be worth it!

So, will I make that swim? Unabashedly – yes! As of this writing I am a third of the way in and I have two months to go. So, is near-zero hive loss possible? Hive losses will happen to you. But how many hives you lose is also up to you.
In your hives. Off your mind.

In order to get the longest life out of Varroa control products, rotation is essential. Mite resistance can develop in a short period of time and that is why it is key to rotate your control materials with products like Apistan®. Rotating on an annual or semi-annual basis with products that have different modes of action will help manage mite resistance. Start your rotation program with Apistan®.

For more information, call 1-800-347-8272 or visit www.centralapiney.com.

Always read and follow labeled directions. Apistan and the Apistan design are trademarks of Wellmark International. ©2011 Wellmark International.
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.

Ron Hoopes

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
- Apiary Diagnostic Kit

And remember: Gift certificates from our advertisers are appropriate year-round!
Editor’s Corner: Terry Lieberman-Smith

Although mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make an idea, the Apiary Diagnostic Kit, a reality. The last stage, compiling all the kits, truly showed how dedicated Ohio beekeepers are to helping the greater colony of beekeepers in our state.

However, creating the kits is not the final step. Getting those kits into action in the apiary to help beekeepers monitor their hives....that is the goal. To that end, we will be sending out monthly reminders to our ADK Brigade to remind them of apiary tasks both for the current month, and the following month. These buzz reminders are created by volunteer Jamie Walters.

Our team of Traveling Speakers has already traveled hundreds of miles to provide the Monitoring for Sustainability presentation to local associations. Make sure to schedule this complimentary presentation before we run out of slots.

The Traveling Speakers will be handing out feedback forms before the presentations. We will be using the information that you provide to help OSBA design future educational programs.

If you are interested in some upcoming OSBA volunteer activities, please consider:

OSBA Representative for Miami Valley
OSBA Representative for Crossroads
OSBA Representative for Buckeye Hills

This year we are again a partner in the Celebrate Ohio Pollinator Week, June 17-25, 2017. Locations include:

♦ Cleveland Botanical Gardens, June 17
♦ Krohn Conservatory, June 18
♦ Franklin Park Conservatory, June 24
♦ Aullwood Audubon. June 25

If you would like to volunteer at these events, please contact: Michele at progdirector@pollinatorstewardship.org

IR Camera and Beekeeping - A Helpful Insight Into the Hive

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Infra-red photography has been around for a while. A few years ago I remember reading about a beekeeper who purchase an IR-gun and used it to help monitor his hive.

An expensive gadget, a new technology to learn, and something else to store and collect dust, were my first impression when reading the article.

Fast forward to earlier this year. In two separate conversations with some beekeepers, the topic of IR photography came up, and this time it was centered around an attachment for a cellphone and a downloaded app. Now that piqued my interest!

But, how to rationalize the purchase. How to justify spending the honey money. So I came up with a list of valid uses in the beeyard in order to rationalize the purchase:

✓ Locate the cluster during winter, without opening the lid
✓ See if the colony is alive, or if the equipment needs to be removed before any robbing
✓ Locate where a colony is in a building/wall/tree to aid in removal

✓ Look for feral colonies in the woods
✓ Locate yellow jacket nests in the ground

Sold! I went on-line, ordered the attachment, and downloaded the app. Within a few days the dongle-sized camera attachment, and the learning curve was minimal.

So if you want a new tool for your beekeeping management, think about adding some IR technology.
### 2017 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

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<th>EMAIL</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tim Arheit</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>419.371.1742</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tarheit@honeyrunapiaries.com">tarheit@honeyrunapiaries.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Lieberman-Smith</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>567.703.6722</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vice-president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org">vice-president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annette Birt Clark</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:secretary@ohiostatebeekeepers.org">secretary@ohiostatebeekeepers.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Colopy</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org">treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org</a></td>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Gabric</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jgabric@columbus.rr.com">jgabric@columbus.rr.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Heart of Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Zomchek</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ohiohoney@woh.rr.com">ohiohoney@woh.rr.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Miami Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Wilson</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>419.722.1953</td>
<td><a href="mailto:djwilson@aol.com">djwilson@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Maumee Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Wilson</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>740.632.7500</td>
<td><a href="mailto:josephkovaleski@sbcglobal.net">josephkovaleski@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
<td>Maumee Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Kovaleski</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>419.603.1749</td>
<td></td>
<td>Crossroads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Rathbun</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>419.603.1749</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tmr7212@yahoo.com">tmr7212@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Crossroads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel Mitchell</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>740.644.2277</td>
<td><a href="mailto:angelsapary@gmail.com">angelsapary@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Erie Basin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Manley</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>740.644.2277</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ramciw@aol.com">ramciw@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Western Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Garnes</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>740.644.2277</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pgarnes001@neo.rr.com">pgarnes001@neo.rr.com</a></td>
<td>Western Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Wells</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>740.644.2277</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwells85@woh.rr.com">dwells85@woh.rr.com</a></td>
<td>Top of Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Doseck</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>740.644.2277</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mdsosohio9866@gmail.com">mdsosohio9866@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Top of Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael DeVaughn</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>740.644.2277</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michael@indianrunapiary.com">michael@indianrunapiary.com</a></td>
<td>Buckeye Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marishka Wile</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>740.644.2277</td>
<td><a href="mailto:briarrose@bright.net">briarrose@bright.net</a></td>
<td>Ohio Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Dresel</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>740.644.2277</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cxd8642@earthlink.net">cxd8642@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>Ohio Valley</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

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### 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.

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 offerS:

- ✓ 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. We have 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.
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  
1624 Idlewood Ave  
Akron, OH  44313

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