OSBA Fall Conference, November 4, 2017 Plain City Ohio

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

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

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren
Meghan Milbrath
Dr. Reed Johnson
Alex Zomchek
Christie Welch
and others….

Check out our growing vendor list on page 2. If you pre-order your beekeeping supplies, these vendors will bring them to the conference and you will save on shipping and handling. Visit our website for updates on vendors and activities.

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

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren
His research program focuses on assessing the ecological risk of pest management strategies and developing longterm 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.
Our OSBA Fall Conference Vendor List
Includes:

- Beelite Candle and Wax Recovery
- Beepothecary
- Betterbee
- Blue Sky Bee Supply
- Broodminder
- Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
- Dadant
- Ernst Conservation Seeds
- Hive Butler
- Honey Run Apiary
- Huron City Bee Company
- International Mating Nuc, Inc.
- Kelley Bees
- Mann Lake, Ltd
- O’Keefe Electronics Inc
- Reid’s Apiary and Bee’tique
- Rockridge Trees
- Strong Microbials
- Simpson Bee Supply
- Superior Bee
Pollinator Week Across Ohio - We Grow Stronger Every Year

Pollinator Week 2017 in Ohio was a fast paced multi-location extravaganza. Thanks to long-range planning by Pollinator Stewardship Council Program (PSC) Director, Michele Colopy, and financial support from Scott’s Miracle-GRO Foundation, four venues hosted an incredible array of educational outreach opportunities for the general public.

This year, attendees could participate in three drawings at each event. For each event, OSBA had 5 baskets filled with Ohio honey products, PSC had 5 gardening baskets, and each venue offered 5 complimentary, 1 year memberships.

The series of events kicked off with a fundraiser in Akron, for the Keep the Hives Alive (http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=5424) tour.

On Saturday June 17, the Cleveland Botanical Garden hosted a multi-exhibit event. Our OSBA table was staffed by Peggy Garnes and Allyson May. American honey queen, Maia Jaycox, also attended the event and helped draw the names of five winners of the honey baskets at the OSBA table.

On Sunday, Krohn Conservatory in Cincinnati was host to Pollinator Week with their Majestic Monarch celebration. The OSBA table was staffed by Terry Lieberman-Smith, and had over 200 visitors stop by and learn about bees. Five baskets were available in the drawing, and Maia Jaycox drew the winners.

On Monday, American Honey Queen Maia Jaycox, accompanied by Michele Colopy and Terry Lieberman-Smith, visited two of the pollinator habitats that were planted thanks to a 2015 Ohio Environment Education Fund grant through the Ohio EPA. The sites included in the Dayton area are at the Dayton Veterans Medical Center, and reclaimed mining land of Fairborn Cement. The Dayton VA planted approx. 2 acres in pollinator habitat, and Dayton cement planted over 30 acres. Both locations had a wider diversity of forage, and a wider diversity of foragers enjoying the habitat. See pictures on page 29.

Wednesday was Advocacy Day. Michele Colopy, Peggy Garnes, Terry Lieberman-Smith, and American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox arrived at the statehouse ready to visit over 23 legislators to discuss a variety of beekeeping topics. Michele spent hours contacting the House and Senate Agricultural Committee members, scheduling and confirming appointments. An information packet was compiled for each of the legislators, including the total number of registered beekeepers in each legislators’ district. While scheduling these meetings OSBA learned three legislators are currently beekeepers!

Topics of conversation included legislation to protect beekeepers, the importance of honey bee pollination to Ohio’s agriculture, the need to provide healthy bee forage, and ways to protect our bees from pesticides. Maia stopped by the Statehouse Hives, and visited with Tamra Ansel, the state house beekeeper.

Thursday’s event was at Scotts Miracle-Gro. American Honey Queen Maia Jaycox, Michele Colopy, and Terry Lieberman-Smith participated in a panel discussion, followed by a tour of Scott’s Miracle-Gro Research and Development facilities, lunch, and a ribbon cutting event for two acres of pollinator habitat at the Marysville headquarters.

On Saturday June 24, Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus hosted the Pollinator Palooza. Over 20 exhibitors helped educate the public about the importance of pollinators. Peggy Garnes and Terry Lieberman-Smith staffed the

(Continued on page 4)
OSBA table. Over 130 people stopped by the table to learn about Ohio beekeeping. Once again Maia Jaycox drew the names of five lucky winners of the Ohio honey baskets at the OSBA table.

Aullwood Audubon Farm brought the weeklong celebration to an end. Exhibitors included Cardinal Land Trust, Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative, Miami Valley Beekeepers Association, Boots to Bees, and OSBA. Chris Rowlands, Aullwood’s Outreach Environmental Education Specialist entertained (and educated) visitors with a musical, creative, and fun program about pollinators.

Celebrate Ohio Pollinator Week is a wonderful collaboration of Ohio beekeepers, cultural destination venues in Ohio, pollinator advocates, the national Pollinator Stewardship Council, and Ohio company and funder the Scotts Miracle-GRO Foundation. This June event helps to educate the public about Ohio honey bees, beekeepers, Ohio honey, and the opportunities to learn and support beekeeping through Ohio’s local beekeeping associations.
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?

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 beta kits through their paces last 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 are available for purchase at a special price of $49.99 (plus shipping) from our website, or $45 at the OSBA table at upcoming events. The manual, by itself, is available for purchase on-line for $24.99 (free shipping), or $20 at the OSBA table. Clubs may bulk order the manuals for extra savings.

www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org/adk
Update on the OSBA Certified Master Beekeeper Program

The Master Beekeeping Program is growing very quickly this year and we're excited for the new students that have taken on the journey of becoming OSBA Certified Master Beekeepers. Our committee is expanding by two new committee members this month. John Schwartz and Dan Zikursh have been welcomed into the committee to help meet the needs of the increasing number of students joining this year.

Visit the OSBA website at: http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/master-beekeeper-program/.

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 provide local associations with a Monitoring for Sustainability presentation, free of charge!

Our team includes: Christine Cain, Peggy Games, John Grafton, Bob Hooker, Joseph Kovaleski, and Jamie Walters. The grant limits us to a maximum of 30 presentations across the state, and we have already booked over 3/4 of our scheduling inventory.

If your association would like to schedule a complimentary Monitoring for Sustainability presentation, please contact vice-president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org.

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
✓ Receipt of purchase for Beekeeping Equipment (woodenware, wax) or Honey Bees
✓ 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
Providing quality equipment, live bees, and answers to your beekeeping questions since 1979.

Customizable Kits: Get What you Need at a Discount!
There is no one way to keep bees. Betterbee offers customizable kits where you save by purchasing a group of equipment at once, but have plenty of options to get the type of equipment you’re looking for.
For our Beginner Kit, choose your outer cover, helmet and Veil, Hive Tool, Glove Style and Size, Frames and Foundation, Bottom Board, and Book. Call or visit our website to learn about all your choices!

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OSBA 4-H Sponsorship Winner Updates

Kay Lennartz
In May I received four nucs arranged by the Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association. With the help of my mentor Ron Stucke, my dad I installed them soon after. Since then I have been busy monitoring my hives for new brood and various pest. I have learned many new things thus far and hope that I continue to do so.

Ben Holliday
The last time mom and I got in them we had to add another box to them. They are both doing really well. We did see some hive beetles so we added some Swiffer strips to the top of the boxes. I am really enjoying my project and am learning a lot.

Daisy Ray
On May 7, I prepped and painted my eight medium brood boxes. Later on that day we went to set up the area for the hives. A few days later that week, my dad and I went to another local beekeeper to get bees. Once we had the bees, we went to where we had set up a place for the hives and transported the bees there. About two weeks went by and there was bad weather and a lot of rain, which flooded the area where the bees were being kept. This resulted in the hives being washed downstream. We were unable to get to the hives safely before it was too late. Since I no longer have bees, I will be assisting my father with his bees. We will be doing varroa mite testing and treatment if necessary after honey harvest. I will also be assisting him with honey harvesting and selling. I was disappointed about losing the bees but will continue to learn through watching my father and other local beekeepers.

Continued on page 9
Sophie Lucas

I picked up my first package of bees on April 19 and my mother, who is also my 4H project helper, helped me with installing them. I learned a lot that day and I really enjoyed the process. It was so fascinating to pour 3 pounds of bees into my first hive ever! I named this First queen Queen Beetrice.

We fed the first hive 1:1 sugar water and on April 21 when we checked the bees I noticed we had small hive beetles in that hive. So we got out our small hive beetle trap, filled it with vinegar and oil, and put it in the hive. We checked again in May 3 and saw no beetles in the trap. So we ordered diatomaceous earth to spread underneath the hive to help deter pests.

On April 28 we went and picked up a Nuc from my mentor to install in my second hive. as we wanted to compare which hive would be most productive. The Nuc was fun to install frame by frame. I named this queen Queen Debbee.

As we continued to feed the hives we noticed some mold growing in hive number 1 which also continued to have small hive beetles. Mom thought we needed to move the hives into a sunnier area. This was rather difficult to do ourselves so we had to wait until my dad and brother could come help us.

We closed up the hive that evening with duct tape after the bees in hive 1 went inside. Hive number 2 would not go inside so finally at 11:00pm my dad and brother just picked up the entire stand with both hives and moved it up the hill quite a distance away. The next morning we placed branches and leaves at the entrances in hopes that the bees would reorient themselves, but as the day went on we kept seeing a lot of confused bees flying in circles around the yard and returning to their old spot in the shade with their pollen sacks full of pollen. It was so sad! So I reminded mom to get a box and place it near the tree where they were returning to. We did this several times and dumped the bees out at their new spot.

On May 19 my mom and I observed my mentor, Rob Gillam, working with his bees. He has many hives and, even though it was chilly and cloudy, he went through one hive so we could look for the queen. That was fun to try to locate her. He showed me how to pick bees up by their wings. We practiced on drones. We also made borax and crisco small hive beetle traps at his place.

As we have inspected our hives we have noticed that hive 1 isn’t doing as well as hive 2, which was my Nuc. It is flourishing so we added another box of frames on the top of hive 2 on June 7 since nearly all 10 frames were being used.

Hive 1 is still only 5 frames full so we are thinking about requeening this hive next week when Rob gets home from vacation.

I have been working on my 4H project book and it's coming along nicely. I have judging on June 27. I am enjoying my club meetings and it's members. My club name is the Wyandot County Shepherds.

Noah Barga

On April 5, I got my bees. I had ordered two three pound packages for my two hives. On the day that I got my bees, the weather conditions weren't very good. This caused me to lose my queens and I had to replace them. After that, I haven't had many problems. I have the brood chamber and two supers on each of my hives. The area where my bees are have lots of wildflowers that are blooming, which is a great food source for them. Both of my hives look great and I am very excited that they are doing well. I am continuing to go to my club meetings and I am learning a lot there.
A Buzz in Your Ear

A Hive-Minded Basket

During the Pollinator Week events across Ohio, many attendees asked if they could purchase the baskets of honey products displayed on the OSBA table.

We had to decline their offers because the baskets were created for the drawing at the end of each event.

However, their requests do bring up a good point: there is a demand for gift baskets that feature a variety of honey-based products.

Why not pool your resources with other beekeepers who produce items outside of your own product lines, and market your baskets and split the profits?

Might be a great fundraiser for your clubs.

Bee City USA – Why Not Your City?

Two “cities” near me have been designated as “Bee City USA”; Vandalia and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. What is a Bee City? Per their website, “The Bee City USA program endorses a set of commitments, defined in a resolution, for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet.” Right now there are 49 bee cities. Only 2 are in Ohio. Hard to believe that Ohio—the birthplace of Reverend L.L. Langstroth’s moveable frame hive, home to A.I. Root, and your home, only has 2 out of 49 cities on the list. North Carolina, First Flight (according to their license plate), has 10 cities designated Bee City USA.

Universities and Arboretums can become Bee Campuses. Five North Carolina campuses have that designation—currently no Ohio campuses have been nominated.

Let’s hear it for more Ohio communities moving toward becoming a Bee City USA. For more information:

http://www.beecityusa.org/
Friday, Sept 8th 3 -7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept 9th, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Free Admission, Parking and Shuttle

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JR. BEEKEEPING  HONEY BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN HONEY PRINCESS
Dear Terry,

I wanted to provide a little feedback in the event it is useful to this project. My son, John Paul, received his kit last week and we planned to monitor starting in June when school was out. Reading the information and having the tools at hand prompted us to get into the apiary and start sugar shaking immediately (as soon as weather allowed).

We have 3 hives and the sugar shake count showed 0, 3, and 1 mite(s). We were so surprised to have that many so soon. We also removed a section of drone comb - it looked exactly like the picture on page 15. John Paul picked apart a 4x4 section and discovered over 30 mites - he observed that when he found 1, he usually found 4 more in the same cell. It appears that we removed this comb with only hours to spare before it became a mite-bomb.

I wanted to tell you that receiving this kit really pushed us to get into the hive and take action so much sooner than we would have. I am attaching photos of JP at work, if they are in any way useful to the program, feel free to use them.

Thank you so much for this opportunity,
Colleen and John Paul Antalek

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Thank You Note:

Dear Board,

I don't know how I got on the list or how you got the grant money... but THANKS!

The ADK is great! Some of the things I didn't know they make.

Sincerely,

Pat Wessler
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OSBA at the Ohio State Fair—July 30—August 6 2017

This multi-day extravaganza provides the general public with a host of different beekeeping stations where they can learn about the importance of honey bees. Along with bee beards, observation hives, display apiary area, and vendor areas, the American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox, will be a guest presenter. OSBA provides funding for the OSBA Pavilion which includes supporting the Honey Contests at the Ohio State Fair. Equipment donations for the beeyard are provided by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, Conrad Hive and Honey, Dadant, Honey Run Apiaries, and Mann Lake.

Tentative Event Schedule : July 30 – August 6

**Sun. July 30** – Walk through a replica of an actual beeyard and view pollinator plants. Ask for honey samples from our vendors and have your photo taken with the Honey Bear!

**Mon. July 31** – Honey bees pollinate the crops that provide each of us with nutritious food. Learn more about the role bees play in Ohio’s agriculture and learn about starting a pollinator garden. Visit vendors featuring Ohio hive and honey products.

- 10a-2p – Tess Conrad, Lithopolis (Ohio) Honeyfest Queen, will be on hand to talk to young visitors about how they can become bee-friendly.
- 11a-12:30p – Veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell will take you on a tour of a beeyard and explain how to get started with your own hive.
- 12:30p – The All-Ohio State Fair Band visits the pavilion and plays selections to help introduce the week’s first bee beard demonstration!
- 1p – Watch Barry Conrad place live bees around his face to form a “bee beard.” (weather permitting)
- 3p– Ways to use honey to pamper your hair and face (American Honey Queen)
- 4p – Bee beard demonstration (weather permitting).

**Tues. Aug. 1**

- 10a-11a – Sample different honeys and find out their floral source.
- 11a-12:30p – Explore the Ohio State Beekeepers Association’s beeyard and learn from the American Honey Queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell how to become a beekeeper.
- 1p-3p – Master Gardener volunteer and beekeeper Tina Bobek will be available to answer your questions about how you can plant gardens to benefit honey bees.
- 3p and 8p – Ways to use honey to pamper your hair and face (American Honey Queen)
- 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of stinging insects.

**Wed. Aug. 2**

- 10a-11a – Meet the royalty! The American Honey Queen and Tess Conrad, the Lithopolis (Ohio) Honeyfest Queen will be on hand to talk bees. Also visit with Honey Bear!
- 11a-12:30p – Explore the Ohio State Beekeepers Association’s beeyard and learn from the honey queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell how to become a beekeeper. Yes, there are classes available throughout Ohio for beginners!
- 1p-2p – Learn about what it takes to start a pollinator garden to attract bees and butterflies. We have the seeds!
- 3p and 8p – Ways to use honey to pamper your hair and face (American Honey Queen)
- 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of stinging insects. Look into a real beehive.

**Thurs. Aug. 3**

- 11a-12:30p – Explore the Ohio State Beekeepers Association’s beeyard and learn from the honey queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell how to become a beekeeper.
- 1p-2p – Learn how to identify the different species of bees such as the honey bee, wasps, Bumble bees and sweat bees.
- 3p and 8p - Ways to use honey to pamper your hair and face (American Honey Queen)
- 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of stinging insects and maybe help explore the inside of a real beehive.

**Fri. Aug. 4**

- 10a-11a – Representatives of local beekeeping clubs will be available to answer your questions or to get you started in beekeeping.
- 11a-12:30p – Tag along with the American Honey Queen Honey and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell

(Continued on page 16)
and learn how to become a beekeeper.

- 1p – Watch a real live bee beard demonstration (weather permitting)
- 2p-2:30p – Photo opportunities with the honey queen and Honey Bear!
- 3p – Eight ways to use honey to pamper your hair and face (American Honey Queen)
- 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of stinging insects. Look into a real beehive.

Sat. Aug. 5
- 10a-11a – Tag along with the American Honey Queen Honey and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell in a model bee yard and learn how to become a beekeeper. Yes, there are classes for beginner beekeepers available throughout Ohio!
- 1p – Bee beard demonstration. Watch a beekeeper attract thousands of bees around his neck to form a beard (weather permitting).
- 2p – Stop in and look at the huge selection of flower and garden seeds available to help you start your own pollinator garden and talk to experts who can help guide your decisions.
- 3p – Eight ways to use honey to pamper your hair and face (American Honey Queen)
- 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of stinging insects and maybe help explore the inside of a real beehive.

Sun. Aug. 6
- 11a-12p – Stroll along with Tess Conrad, Lithopolis (Ohio) Honeyfest queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell through a model bee yard and learn how to become a beekeeper. Yes, there are classes available throughout Ohio!
- 12p – Ashleigh Lemon, senior biology specialist for Scotts Miracle-Gro, “Inviting Bees to your Yard with Plants” and “Best Practices for Treating with Pesticides to Cause the Least Harm”
- 1p – Bee beard demonstration (weather permitting)
- 2p – Honey in the kitchen: Learn how to make honey smoothies and how honey can be used in everyday meals.
- 3p-4p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of stinging insects and help explore the inside of a real beehive.
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 link below, 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 with 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)*

**Honey Ginger Lemonade Concentrate**

A perfect base for a refreshing daytime drink (or add something stronger for a tasting party beverage)

1 c. water
4-½ in slices fresh ginger
3/4 c. freshly squeezed lemon juice, strained
½ c. honey

Bring water and ginger to a boil. Turn off heat and let steep for about 15 minutes. Strain. Add honey and lemon juice. Stir to combine. Store in fridge.

To use: Equal parts of the concentrate and a liquid of your choice. I like to use carbonated water for a refreshing, after apiary visit drink!

Skewer up some icy-cold fruit for extra fun!

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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:
Things I Wish I Had Known Sooner

At first glance beekeeping appears to be a fairly straightforward endeavor. However, once you’ve acquired a hive or two the picture starts to blur. First impressions are quickly replaced by confusion and awe. Success, perhaps competency is a better description, is achieved through trial and error over a period of time, often a considerable period of time. The object of this article is to help reduce that time frame, and hopefully, save the reader some grief and dollars in the process. While my target audience is the advanced hobbyist or aspiring sidelinier, smaller backyard beekeepers can benefit as well.

Good Information – When I started keeping bees way back in the mid-seventies good how-to information was difficult to come by. The internet was still decades away, as were videos and the local association’s annual spring tutorial. [Ohio State did offer a mail-order correspondence course] Today the problem is reversed, there’s almost too much information, and much of it is of questionable value. The need for a reliable source of start-up information has never been greater.

With that thought in mind I would like to make a couple of recommendations. For starters I would suggest The BEEKEEPERS HANDBOOK 4th edition, by Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile. This is a good book for beekeepers at any level, but it’s a great startup manual for new beekeepers. It’s easy to read, and it provides the reader with a clear understanding of the basics necessary for successful colony management. There are chapters on equipment, feeding bees, seasonal management, queens and queen rearing, and pathogens and parasites among others. The many illustrations add clarity where necessary. My second recommendation is Larry Connor’s BEESENTIALS. This is a field guide with abundant color photographs to help guide the reader through the many phases of colony management and related subjects. An excellent stand-alone book, Bee-Sentials is the perfect companion to the Beekeepers Handbook.

The Bee Space – The bee space refers to the required separation of approximately three sixteenths to three eights of an inch between various hive parts that prevents the bees from filling the gaps with either propolis or wax. In practice, bees will seal any open space narrower than three sixteenths of an inch with propolis. Conversely, any opening wider than three eights of an inch will encourage the construction of burr comb. The most common cause of bee space abuse is improperly built woodenware. When you interchange frames and hive bodies from different manufacturers bee space abuse often results. When hive bodies and their corresponding brood frames aren’t in sync, the resulting bee space abuse can turn deadly. The burr comb that is built between top bars of the lower hive body and the bottom bars of the upper hive body is a potential death trap for queens. Every time you remove a brood frame or raise the upper brood box, you run the risk of crushing the queen upon reassembly. And it’s virtually impossible to know that anything is amiss. This is a serious matter. Before you put any new or older rebuilt equipment into service check to make sure the bee space dimensions are within tolerance. (Refer to article in OSBA Newsletter, 1st quarter 2016)

Frame Assembly – I suspect the majority of small and mid-size beekeepers purchase their frames pre-assembled. The savings in time, while considerable, is more than offset by the inferior construction of most factory made frames! Virtually all of the factory frames I’ve seen use a ½ inch staple to attach both the top and bottom bars to the end bars. All also appear to have been glued prior to assembly. The last phase of construction, the addition of another ½ inch through each end bar into the lower end of the top bar is also almost universal. And therein rests the problem. That final staple looks good, but realistically it adds very little in the way of structural durability. Frames built in this manner will serve their intended purpose for a number of years, depending on the amount and type of use. However, over time propolis builds up around the top bars and rabbits, and slightly out of square frames, or frames with too much end leeway become glued to the lower hive body or super wall. Factor in a little cool weather to stiffen the propolis, or an impatient beekeeper, and before you know it, one end of the top bar has been pried loose. But the frame is still firmly glued in place. Now what do you do?

Prevention is far and away the best solution. Before you put any frame, new or otherwise into service, drive a standard frame nail through each of the four end bar tabs, into the top bar. To avoid contact with the factory’s vertical ½ inch staple, angle the nail slightly inward, toward the center of the top bar. Better yet, use a ¼ inch crown staple gun with 1 inch staples. Shoot the staple through the end bar tab so that it straddles the vertical ½ inch staple. On occasion the staples will make contact and one leg of the quarter inch staple will protrude somewhere outside the end bar. When possible use a tack hammer to tap the protruding end flush with the end bar. If that’s not practical use a pair of needle-nose pliers to break the staple off. Add a replacement staple if necessary. Frames so treated are virtually indestructible. They will provide years of service regardless of the operating conditions.

Outer Covers – A little over twenty years ago I built a good number of migratory outer covers. Their anticipated use never materialized so they’ve remained in storage ever since. Last year I decided to try them out. Even though I’ve used migratory covers on my nucs for over 20

(Continued on page 21)
years, I was surprised at their convenience. In the short term, colony opening was simplified; there was no inner cover to deal with. In the long term, the routine practice of scraping propolis off both the inner and outer covers was largely eliminated. Moving colonies was also simplified. When moving with an outer cover precautions must be taken to avoid damaging the cover. Securing the load also presents problems; telescoping covers allow the brood boxes to shift at any opportunity. With migratory covers colonies are placed wall to wall, so shifting is nearly impossible.

I'm basically replacing the inner cover with a migratory cover. The telescoping outer cover remains in its normal position. The migratory covers are made of ¾ inch boards, dado cut to overlap in the center. A 2 inch wide cross support on the top of each end holds everything together. With the telescoping cover in place there is roughly a ¾ in dead air space between the two covers. In effect, the telescoping cover provides both weather and summer heat protection. For feeding purposes the inner cover is returned to its normal position. I prefer to feed through the center hole in the inner cover. An empty hive body covers the feeder jar / can, and the cover(s) are returned to their normal position. What about upper ventilation? Since I keep bees in very heavy snow territory I’ve drilled a 7/8” hole just below the hand hold in the upper hive body. For years this was how the bees were able to take cleansing flights when the snow was tail deep to a giraffe. Today I use a one piece insulated inner cover, with a built-in upper ventilation port. During the winter months it replaces the inner and / or migratory cover. Weather protection is again provided by that old standby, the telescoping outer cover.

Wood Protection – If you’re in beekeeping for the long haul it’s imperative you take steps to prolong the life of your woodenware, namely bottom boards and brood boxes. Manufactured bottom boards average roughly 23 inches in length, brood boxes are only 20 inches long. When combined the bottom board protrudes approximately 3 inches in front of the hive body. In temperate climates those three inches are constantly exposed to moisture in the form of rain in the warmer months, and snow and ice during the winter. The end result, the exposed wood rots! This problem is easily solved by shortening the bottom by a couple of inches or so. At approximately 21 inches run-off from the front of the outer cover falls in front of the bottom board, not onto it. The same applies to snow and ice, there isn’t any shelf for water to collect on and freeze. Yet there is still plenty of room to accommodate a traditional wooden entrance reducer.

Whether pre-assembled or assembled by the beekeeper, brood box and super panels rarely fit together perfectly. Frequently one end or side is slightly out of sync with its counterpart. If left as is, once in service water will collect in the small gaps between the boxes. It won’t take long before rot sets in, especially in the corners where the wood has been weakened due to routine colony manipulation. This problem can be partially eliminated by using a standard carpenter’s plane to remove excess width from the offending box wall(s). The idea is standardize each box so that there isn’t any visible space between stacked boxes. This is far more important with brood boxes that are exposed to weather year-round than with supers which only receive seasonal use. In addition, I would strongly recommend using some type of wood preservative to further extend your woodenware’s lifespan.
OSBA Elections – November 4, 2017

This year OSBA members will be electing a new Executive Board, plus 3 Regional Directors.

In order to stagger the terms of the Executive Board members, and ensure continuity, beginning with the term starting January 1st, 2018 the Vice-President and Secretary shall serve a three-year term ending December 31st, 2020. Thereafter, all officers shall serve two year terms with the President and Secretary’s term beginning in even years, and Vice-President and Treasurer’s beginning in odd years.

Regional Director slots, with three year positions, to be voted on are:

Western Reserve which covers the following counties: Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, medina, Summit, Portage and Trumbull.

Buckeye Hills which covers the following counties: Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington.

Crossroads which covers the following counties: Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Jefferson, Harrison, Holmes, Mahoning, Muskingum, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne.

The duties of all the officers are included in the OSBA By-Laws: http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/OSBABylaws.pdf.

If you have questions about any of the OSBA Board positions that are available, please contact the incumbent, or contact Mike Doseck at: mdosohio9866@gmail.com for details.

If you are interested in having your name on the ballot, please contact Mike Doseck for the application.

Applications must be filled out and returned to Mike by September 1, 2017.

If you are interested in being appointed by the OSBA Board as the OSBA HAS or EAS Representative, please contact Mike to fill out an application.

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Sunday, September 24:
8:30 – 4:30, speakers all day, bring your camera and notebook, a Wonderful lunch included, plus live demos, and weather permitting, be in the bee yard with Bee Culture’s beekeepers (bring your veil)

Schedule details, updates and information on our web page and in the next issue.

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Using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to Control Varroa Mites: The Basics

Hannah Whitehead

Varroa mites are a damaging parasite of honey bees. They reproduce under the capped cells of developing pupae, feed on bees’ fat bodies, and transmit a number of damaging viruses. Without intervention, infested honey bee colonies typically die within 1-2 years. They are found on every continent except Australia, and it is assumed that every hive within their range is infested. In other words, if you have honey bees, you already have Varroa mites, or you will have them shortly.

Experts increasingly recommend an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy to manage mites. But what does that really mean? This article reviews the origins of IPM, and how it can be applied to beekeeping. At the end, I’ve listed some key resources that will be helpful as you design your own mite management strategy.

Origins of IPM

In the decades following WWII, farmers applied chemicals to crops according to the calendar. This meant that they applied pesticides during the same time windows every year, whether or not the pest was present. By the 1960s, scientists and citizens became concerned about the impact of excess pesticide residues on wildlife and humans. There were also widespread reports of pests that had evolved resistance to common insecticides and herbicides.

In response, scientists developed an alternative framework for pest management – called integrated pest management, or IPM – which aims to reduce pesticide applications while maintaining long-term control of pests. It is based on two core principles:

1. Use accurate field measurements of pest levels to make pest management decisions (rather than just calendar dates).
2. Combine multiple pest management strategies, based on time of year, conditions, and observed pest levels. Use non-chemical and preventative control options whenever possible, and chemical controls only when pests exceed damaging thresholds. Rotate chemical controls.

This approach dramatically lowers pesticide use, since non-chemical and preventative measures can reduce the need for pesticides applications, and pesticides are only applied when pests actually reach damaging levels. It reduces the unintended consequences of pesticide use, and the chance of generating pest resistance. Today, both organic and conventional farmers are encouraged to manage pests using IPM principles.

IPM for Beekeepers

What does IPM look like for beekeepers?

1. Sampling to estimate actual mite levels. Visually assessing colonies is not an accurate way to detect whether or not you have mites. Instead, there are several sampling methods that you can use, including sugar shakes, alcohol washes, uncapping drone brood and screened bottom boards. See the Honey Bee Health Coalition “Tools for Varroa Management” (link listed at the bottom of the article) for more information about accurate sampling. The guide also includes information about treatment thresholds at different times of the year.

2. Combining tactics, and using non-chemical tools whenever possible. More information on most of these methods (including instructional videos) can be found on the Honey Bee Health Coalition website.

Non-chemical tactics that have been shown to reduce mite levels, or are correlated with lower losses, are:

- Local genetics/specialty genetics
- Good forage
- Brood break/splitting
- Drone brood removal
- Possibly reducing mite invasion via drifting/robbing – paint hives different colors, feed during low nectar periods, isolate hives

When you find a high-mite colony, intervene using formic acid, oxalic acid or thymol. This reduces the danger of infesting neighboring colonies (in your own apiaries and neighboring apiaries). Re-queen with different stock, and consider strengthening non-chemical tools applied to that hive (above).

On the next page is an example of a generalized yearly IPM strategy.
Useful Resources:


OSBA Pollinator Oasis Seeds Head to D.C.

From a press release:

Earlier this month, Second Lady Karen Pence and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue unveiled a newly-installed bee hive on the grounds of the Vice President’s residence in Washington DC, drawing attention to the plight of pollinators—specifically honey bees—whose numbers are severely in decline.

As you know, Vandalia, too, has acknowledged the importance of pollinators by becoming Ohio’s first “Bee City USA” in 2016.

To further show our commitment to the Bee City program and the nurturing of pollinators, Mayor Setzer has invited a couple of State Officials to Vandalia next week.

Monday, June 26 at 9:30 a.m., we will welcome Sandra Brasington, Western Ohio Regional Liaison for Governor John R. Kasich, and Ohio 10th District Congressman Mike Turner to the Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler, 336 E. Alkaline Springs Road. Mayor Setzer will read a proclamation and introduce Al Tuttle, Vandalia Bee City liaison, who will present our State officials with packets of “bee friendly” flower seeds and locally-produced honey, demonstrating Vandalia’s appreciation for their efforts on behalf of pollinators. It is hoped that word of Vandalia’s ground-breaking support here in Ohio will be passed on to our leaders in Washington.

Editor’s Note: Al shared with me that the seeds are the OSBA Pollinator Oasis Blend, available on our website!
Pollinator Stewardship Council-Medina County Beekeepers-OSBA OEEF Grant Update:

**Fairborn Cement** - 32 acres in pollinator habitat. The fields were buzzing with insect activities, along with a chorus of song from a diversity of birds. Thank you Rusty Strader for facilitating this project.

**The Dayton Veterans Administration** — 2 acres of pollinator habitat. This acreage is enjoyed by insects, birds, squirrels, along with the staff and veterans who call the VA their home. Thank you Bryan Boyd for facilitating this project.

Professional Service Providers in Wadsworth is ¾ of an acre of pollinator habitat. Nine beds on a very windy hillside provide habitat for a variety of native pollinators and honey bees.
Association Corner

Miami Valley Region:

**Warren County Beekeepers** are already planning their Swap Meet and picnic for next quarter.

In 2016, Joe Hahn and Dave Barnes with Warren Co Beekeepers created the initial pollinator patch at Hisey Park near Waynesville, Oh. Joe donated the seed and Dave worked with Warren County Parks to arrange the space and prepare the seed beds.

They were pleased to see many of the plants successfully reproduce in 2017. Warren Co Parks graciously donated more space and an additional space. Dave Barnes and his family opened hundreds of pollinator seed packets donated by the “Feed a Bee” program and we are looking forward to seeing the new plants!

**Greene County Beekeepers** have been busy this quarter with a packed house during each meeting. Guest speakers, area updates, and lots of parking lot conversation highlight the meetings. Their annual Honey Harvest provided the general public information about honey, honey bees, and beekeeping.

From Peggy Garnes and Richard Manley – Western Reserve Region:

**Ashtabula Beekeepers Association** held their field day on May 27th at the Jacob Kurtz Family Farm. Over 40 members attended the event. Breakout sessions included hive inspection, package installation, and how to make a split.

**Geauga County Beekeepers Association** had over 84 members attend their May 20th Field Day at Case Western Reserve University Farms. Dr. Heather Lane spoke on the Veterinary Feed Directives and keeping your hive strong. Various sessions were presented throughout the day and during the “Making a Split” session hosted by Gene McCune and Carl Bezilla, membership had the opportunity to see an emerging queen. Additionally, Greg Bayzath built and donated a “Top Bar” hive to the Case Western University Farm Apiary. Along with the hive, Greg and Trish Harness installed a package donated by Richard & Jennifer Manley. Field Day wrapped up with a Raffle in which every member received multiple gifts. A special thank you goes out to all members that donated gifts along with Blue Sky Bee Supply for their on-going support of the Geauga County Beekeepers Association.

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association** held their popular annual conference on May 20th, with Dr. Thomas Seeley as their guest speaker. The club also participated in the Pollinator Week activities by having a table at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens on June 17th.

The **Medina County Beekeepers** are gearing up for another great year at the Medina County Fair. The May meeting was a field day in the beeyard with over 50 members attending this educational event. Speakers are already scheduled through the rest of the year. A special session was scheduled for the ADK Monitoring for Sustainability presentation.

**Portage County Beekeepers** held their field day in Ravenna, OH.
From Mike Doseck - Top of Ohio:

Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association has been working with Mercer County Sportsman Club (MCSC) to establish a partnership with the placement of hives on their 80 acres of wildlife habitat. The intention is to have a Club beeyard for field days and to educate the youths of MCSC on their Youth Days. Our Clubs have located a site just off of Grand Lake with road access and a shelter house close by. Hive placement will begin this summer with equipment and hive donations from Club members.

June will be our last meeting of the summer which will have a presentation by Bob Hinschlager, who will share his experience on top bar hives. We will also be answering any questions, especially from the new beekeepers, concerning their nucs purchased for their hives and what to expect and do in the coming months.

July will be our annual Field Day, which will be hosted by Ray and Lynn Moeller again this year. Jamie Walters will be present to share with us the technique of splitting and requeening our hives. The Field Day will be on July 15th from 1:30 to 4 with a carry in and social time after.

August will be busy with Club presentations at the Auglaize County Fair (August 1st at 6PM) and Mercer County Fair (Tuesday, August 15th at 6PM). Also, the Ohio State Fair will have the Club members assisting in helping out at the OSBA Bee Tent on August the 4th and 5th.

September, being Honey Month, is our time to put together a display at St. Marys Community Library. Last years display was received with a lot of enthusiasm and many positive comments, making this year a challenge to top last year. Our Club is working with the City of St. Marys to help establish pollinator habitats and we will have guest speakers from local and State levels for a discussion.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association kept the members busy with great speakers, monthly hands-on visits to the MVBA Apiary at Brukner Nature Center, and participating in the Pollinator Week event at Aullwood Audubon Farm on Sunday, June 25th.

Looking for a beekeeping class in 2017? Vickie Bowman, in a partnership with Miami County Park District, will be teaching a 2 day Beginner Beekeeping Class starting August 26, 2017. For more information: www.ohiobuckeyebelle.com/beekeeping-classes.html.

MVBA Club members: Al Tuttle, Vickie Bowman, American Honey Queen Maia Jaycox, Dave Fogle

From Dwight Wilson and Brad Hibbard- Maumee Valley Region:

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association Northwest Ohio has been very busy in "the bee world"! The Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Club had their ADK presentation, and the beekeepers are excited to use their kits to test their hives.

Dwight Wells spoke at both clubs on the topic of proper nuc building, which will be used at both club's Field Day events. The queens for the nucs will be Ankle Biter virgin queens, previously made. The two queens, which were ordered by beekeepers, will be at the events for pickup.

The Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Club, was happy to recently have Jim Tew as the guest speaker to talk about queens and queen problems. Jim is always a joy to have as a guest speaker.

We wish everyone a healthy and happy summer! Have fun with your bees!

Maumee Valley Beekeepers Association had their ADK presentation this quarter. The club’s field day will bee on July 8th, starting at 1 p.m. Planned activities include Jamie Walters demonstrating OTS queen rearing, and there will be other breakout sessions on various topics.
Black Swamp Beekeepers Association has had our first few meetings and our memberships are growing quickly. We are taking a proactive stance on educating our community when collecting swarms, doing GO LIVE on FaceBook while doing tear-outs, and keeping our members active with newsletters, educational information, and fun projects. We started a raffle for a 4 frame hand crank extractor to raise money for the club and a hive painting contest for our members. We have posted all 15 entries on FB: Black Swamp Beekeepers Association and asked for "LIKE" votes for the best decorative hives. You're welcome to visit our FaceBook page and vote! We will be joining NWOBA on June 24th for their Field Day of education and fellowship. Congratulations to our newbees & keepers internship class for making it this far, all of their hives are being inspected, alive and thriving!

From Joseph Kovaleski - Crossroads Region:
Monitoring for Sustainability presentations were well received at the Tri-County Beekeepers Association and Jefferson County Beekeepers Association monthly meetings presented by two of the OSBA traveling instructors.

Tuscarawas County Beekeepers sponsored a field day for area beekeepers.

Dr. Kirsten Traynor, beekeeper and University of Maryland honey bee researcher, spoke to area beekeepers at the Scio United Methodist Church, Scio, OH, on May 25. Dr. Traynor spent 6 months in Germany and described the management systems used by beekeepers in Germany that permits them to successfully maintain their colonies while experiencing only a 4% annual loss of colonies. The Harrison County Association co-sponsored this event with Coshocton County, Jefferson County, Tuscarawas County and the Tri-State Beekeepers.

Beekeeping has become an integral part of Family Farm Field Day that was held on July 15 & 16th at Wholesome Valley Farm in Wilmot, Ohio. There will be several beekeeping presentations conducted by area OSBA beekeepers throughout the day.
From Jeff Gabric - Heart of Ohio:

Central Ohio Beekeepers participated in the Pollinator Palooza event during Pollinator Week at Franklin Park Conservatory. Three of their Youth Scholarship Students were awarded Certificates of Completion. Congrats to Emma Dearth, Reagan LaVigne and McKenzie Bussett. John Grafton, one of the Traveling Speakers for the OSBA Monitoring for Sustainability, visited COBA’s First Year Beeyard and provided a hands-on presentation.

Scioto Valley Beekeepers had a great line-up of speakers this quarter. Jim North discussed the challenges that mites pose for beekeepers. Isaac and Jayne Barnes, who operate Honeyrun Farm, have graciously offered their farm for the site of demonstrations on how to conduct varroa mite sampling (counting). This will be held 6 p.m. Thursday, June 8 and will take the place of the regular June meeting. Club members have been invited to the master gardeners of Pickaway County Annual Founders Day Program.

May 6 was the final class, a field day, for the members of the Scioto Valley Beekeeping Class. Thanks to Dan Williams, Marie Crawford, and David Crawford for organizing and teaching the class of 48 students.

Honey supers were placed on the nine hives belonging to SVB during the last week of April, in time for the Black Locust bloom.

Knox County Beekeepers held their field day/picnic on Monday June 19th. New beekeepers were encouraged to bring their Apiary Diagnostic Kits and put them into action!

Earlier this quarter, John Grafton, a traveling speaker with the Monitoring for Sustainability presentation, was guest speaker at the April meeting.

East Central Ohio Beekeepers also participated in the Pollinator Palooza at Franklin Park. They are having a conference on September 23 in Zanesville, OH. Speakers will be: Dr. Tom Seeley, Dr. Keith Delaplane, and Gary Reuter, past president of Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association and Wisconsin Honey Producers Association. For more information, please visit their website: https://www.e-coba.org/

From Tom Rathbun - Erie Basin:

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association had one of their largest Beginner Beekeeping classes in the history of the club with over 60 participants. The April 1 and April 8 sessions were filled with lots of great questions, along with a package installation demonstration. At the end of the class, one of the packages and hive equipment was given away as a door prize.

On May 19th, SRVBA President Troy Liebengood drove to Hardemans Apiaries in George and brought back 100 packages that were then distributed to SRVBA members.

On June 5th Amanda Osborne and Jacqueline Kowalski of the Ohio Department of Agriculture gave a presentation on labeling and marketing your honey bee products. Over 60 club members attended this event.

Richland Area Bee Club held their annual field day in Crestline, Ohio. The field day was held at member David Duncan’s Apiary yard. The day was attended by over 30 members. Hot dogs, sausage and hamburgers were the food of the day, with other food donated by the members present.

The club had several topics for the day from how to light your smoker, inspecting hives for mites and diseases, making splits, cleaning out dead-puts, opening a bee log, and members even got to see two swarms take flight from a hive and get recaptured.
From Marishka Wile and Chris Dresel - Ohio Valley:

The Highland County Beekeepers Association is busy with swarms. There have been an unusual amount of calls requesting removals, especially cut outs. The demand was so high that members had to rely on the Brown County Club’s swarm list for assistance. Spring in Highland County has been an unusual season, as the members’ own hives are swarming as well despite the beekeeper’s best efforts.

Highland County enjoys a small membership. There are usually between twenty and twenty-five attendees. Highland has welcomed new members this season. The club is small enough to encourage even the most reserved members to ask questions, but large enough to have beekeepers at all experience levels offer advice. Highland County meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 119 Governor Foraker Place in Hillsboro. For more information on HCBA visit: [http://www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/](http://www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/)

The Adams County Beekeepers Association began its spring season with presentations in March and April by club member Michael Ellestadt. Michael’s apiary boasts top-bar hives, Langstrom hives and 4-foot-long horizontal hives. Also in April, past president Andrew Frowine showed the newer beekeepers how to load a smoker. Even the more experienced membership benefitted from his tricks of the trade. In May, Carson Miller, a recipient of the Adams County Farm Bureau Scholarship, gave a presentation on his awarded hive and its progress.

Each month, an award recipient, who is assigned a mentor, gives a presentation to the membership. Also monthly is Vice President Tim Scott’s “Did you know…” mini-presentations on honeybee facts. Tim’s company has made a beautiful Barlow knife with the club’s name engraved on it to raise funds for the club. Club members have already bought raffle tickets, and the winner was announced at the June 15th meeting. In June, Adams County club members joined some members from The Brown County Beekeepers Association for a field trip to Michael Ellestadt’s colorful apiary. On Monday, June 12th President Kenny Moles was joined by VP Scott and past president Frowine on the local radio station to raise public awareness about honey bees. On June 15th, Adams County will welcome University of Kentucky’s Professor Clare Rittschof to present on honey bee behavior. Professor Rittschof is a 2006 graduate of Cornell.

Like neighboring Highland County, Adams County has had its fair share of swarms this season. Swarm Coordinator Dave Mangus has received many calls. The ACBA meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm at 9849 State Route 41, West Union, Ohio in the annex building of the Bible Baptist Church. It’s best to check the Facebook page or call one of the phone numbers listed [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association/214316711916893?fref=ts&ref=br tf](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association/214316711916893?fref=ts&ref=br tf) to be sure the membership hasn’t relocated for a field trip.

The Brown County Beekeepers Association has also been active this spring. An increased awareness of honey bees and the expansion of beekeeping as a hobby has continued to increase the club’s membership. The association continues to help its members prosper with their aspirations within the fascinating endeavor of beekeeping. In May, the group held a basic hive inspection class at Chris Dresel’s apiary. Many members attended and socialized the aspects of fundamental hive inspection, hive entrance observation, overall hive population, hive behavior, queen behavior, queen production, food stores, overall colony strength and health, as well as pest management. The organization also made several appearances at local garden centers to educate the public about the importance of bees and how to include a wide variety of beneficial plants in bee-friendly landscapes. In April the club conducted a outreach event at a local Garden Center, Grant’s Farm and Greenhouses, to educate the public on honey bees and beekeeping. Club members received many questions from the concerning the current state of bees and answered just as many about starting hives. In June, the club was at the GoodSeed Nursery and Garden Center to once again answer questions from the public on bee related topics and landscape plantings beneficial to honey bees. To continue beekeeping education and awareness, members Gary Keuffer and Chris Dresel presented a six-part course at Chatfield College as part of their Summer Enrichment Program running from June 7 to July 12. Classes taught will be “The Importance of Pollinators”, “An Introduction to Beekeeping”, “Bee Hive Selection”, “Seasonal Management of Beekeeping”, “Gardening for Pollinators”, and “Swarm Traps/Trap Outs/Cut Outs”. In addition to conducting these educational events, many of the members have been chasing swarms around southern Ohio and conducting cut-outs/bee rescues from numerous structures; some of which are unusual. One colony was rescued from a whiskey barrel and another was successfully removed from a corner cabinet which had been placed out of doors. As with other counties in the state, this year has been an exceptional (and sometimes busy) season for honey bee swarms.

The July and August meetings will be held at the Southern Hills Career Technical Center at 9193 Hamer Rd, Georgetown, OH 45121 the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00.

For more information about the Brown County Beekeepers Association, visit [www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org](http://www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org), or on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/browncountybeekeepers/](https://www.facebook.com/browncountybeekeepers/)
Now is the best time of year to keep an eye on your varroa mite count. Running a Mite Count is a significant and simple way to help keep your hives healthy for the remainder of the season and into the winter.

EasyCheck
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w/ Corrugated Sheet
Sugar Shake

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Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
Serving Beekeepers the Best for 40 YEARS
BEST QUALITY | BEST SERVICE | BEST SUPPORT
EAS 2017 at the University of Delaware, in Newark Delaware

Peggy Garnes, OSBA EAS Representative

Now is the time to register for EAS July 31-August 4. Plan your vacation and join us for the full week of both Short Course and Conference. The Short Course Monday and Tuesday with opening day of the Conference Wednesday is another possible registration or you might register for the Conference Wednesday to Friday. Can’t make it for a full week or 3 days? – consider the one-day registration option.

EAS was last in Delaware 10 years ago and likely won’t return for several more years. This year the program promises a great Short Course and Conference. Our best scientists, brightest students and most experienced beekeepers are scheduled for presentations and workshops. There will be an apiary at the Conference and lots of practical learning opportunities with the bees. There is something for any beekeeper and lots for many. Check out the Short Course/Conference speaker line up at www.easternapiculture.org/2017. There are short bios for each of the presenters.

In addition to our educational program we have fun-filled activities each evening, a big honey show, the biggest, most diverse vendor show of any bee meeting, a honey exchange (bring one or more of yours and swap for someone else’s) and a great bee experience. Don’t miss the biggest and best bee meeting. If you are thinking of staying in the UD dorms our deadline is this month. There is still time to sign up to eat in the Pen-cader cafeteria. Sign up for what you need on the registration form. Deadline to avoid a late fee is mid-July.

We want to see you at EAS 2017 UD Clayton Hall Conference Center July 31-August 4. Time to make your plans and register NOW!

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.
The Buzz on the OSBA Facebook Page

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Facebook can be an effective and inexpensive way for local associations to communicate with club members, local communities, and other like-minded groups.

Over 3000 Facebook users not only “Like” the OSBA page, https://www.facebook.com/OhioStateBeekeepers/, but they also follow our page and eagerly await our posts. While many current beekeepers may not use Facebook as a way to communicate, most of the next generation of beekeepers are constantly on Facebook looking for information and social interaction.

Some points to consider for your club’s Facebook page:

1. Make sure in the “About” section you list the time, date, location of your club meetings
2. If it is a “group” page, you might want to create it as a Members Only page, and that way you can limit spammers and trolls.
3. Have a contact phone or email in case a person has a swarm, beekeeping question, or wants to join your club...they will need to contact a real person.
4. Give a brief description of your club. If they meet at the same place each month, include a map
5. Make a point to have someone take a photo or two at each club meeting or activity, and then post it to your Facebook page. You can post directly from your phone to Facebook
6. Post upcoming events, club meetings, or even activities from associated groups (nothing like building community when you promote a local charity event, Master Gardener Sale, etc).
7. Send out invites to an event— a great way to get on someone’s calendar so that they can’t forget a club activity.
8. Update the page weekly, or at least monthly. A static page will not help promote your club.
“Alex – don’t you have anything positive in your presentation?”

This was a frustrated comment at a recent bee meeting. I had been highlighting the effects on our bees from the unseasonal rain-cold-heat cycles (spoiler alert – note that I did not say “dry”) this year.

I responded by saying that I was only a third of the way into my presentation; that I was simply laying out this particular year; and that it was necessary as beekeepers to know and react to the consequences this unusual weather was having on our bees both now and down the road.

Adding insult to injury I further remarked that for all intents and purposes the major portion of our bee season (honey crop) in the southwestern region of Ohio was over.

The seasoned heads in the room were nodding; the not so seasoned heads either disagreed or demanded clarification.

It comes as a bit of a shock to newer beekeepers that in a 365 day calendar year the bulk of nectar gathering takes place in roughly 30 days. This is formulaic.

Recall that it takes about 400 million flowers per colony to get a hive through a season and give you the beekeeper a honey crop. Without feeding we have to rely on sufficient native nectar producing flower to be in bloom in mass and at the same time; and that occurs in about 30 days of the year.

The bulk of time here in Ohio there is insufficient nectar flows for the bees to forage in mass. Aside: this has become worse with the spread of monocultures and the corresponding shrinking biodiversity giving us fewer nectar days and less sugar diversity.

We tend to think of bees as seeds. I plant on day X and according to the varietal, I harvest Y number of days later. If I plant in March I harvest in July. But if I plant (i.e. get my bee packages) later in May, I will then harvest in August – right?

Plants yes, but beekeeping does not work that way. When packages and nucs arrive late in the Spring it is possible to miss most of nectar crop. Things initially look good because your new colony is placed and growing during the nectar flow, but by the time these same colonies forager populations are sufficient to gather and store surplus honey the majority of the nectar season (30 days) is over. What’s a beekeeper to do?

Start by recognizing that for the most part we actually have two major bee seasons in Ohio. Depending on the year it starts around the first day of Spring (~March20) and ends around the first day of Summer (~June 21st).

The first and larger bee season in terms of nectar/honey production is characterized by increasing, but moderate temperatures and light which then stimulates brood production. Ohio’s native plants respond en mass to this weather stimulation and we get our honey crop.

Bee Season 1 ends with reduced rains and heat which in turns brings on a cessation of both nectar and pollen resources for our bees. This can happen as early as later June.

With Bee Season 1 ending and prior to Bee Season 2 starting we have a period I refer to as the dearth, dry or dead zone. Heat combined with winds literally dry out the landscape. Lawns start to brown and the last of the clover burns out. These are the dog days of summer.

This summer death period leads to nectar AND pollen deficient colonies. This in turn leads to malnourished bees and brood, which in turn, leads to compromised bee health.

Sickly or at-risk bees are more susceptible to bacterial and viral agents the varroa mites are carrying. And for many beekeepers this starts the beginning of the end.

What to do? Just as with animal and plant husbandry – abundant, proper and timed nutrition is key. Simply put: monitor key honey and pollen resources regularly and treat accordingly.

In this case treating means feeding. And just like in the spring I like to break feeding into three types: starvation, nutrition, and stimulation.

(Continued on page 39)
Starvation can come on rapidly in the dearth zone for a variety of reasons beyond the obvious lack of external pollen and nectar resources. Your colonies are at peak populations so there are many more mouths to feed so vital resources can be depleted quickly.

Perhaps you took too much honey off thinking there was lots of year left for the bees to restock. Also, robbing from nearby colonies is common particularly as some colonies begin to weaken. Whatever the case starvation feeding is easy and under the beekeepers control.

Nutrition feeding involves a pollen substitute. Pollen provides critical proteins, vitamins, and minerals. For example, muscular and glandular development are stunted without sufficient and proper protein nutrition. The all important hypopharyngeal glands of workers bees which produce royal jelly for all growing brood and the queen are diminished without proper feed. A large colony will gather as much as 100 pounds of pollen in a bee year.

Water is a nutrition element and becomes a critical part of the dearth zone nutrition regimen. You and I can live weeks without food but only about three days without water. And so it goes for bees that use water for maintaining body mass/function, thinning honey for digestion, cooling the hive for brood incubation, and more. Do not confuse hot weather water flights for nectar gathering.

Stimulation feeding involves the major components of starvation feeding – sugar(s) and nutritional feedings (proteins), but is timed. Timely feeding several months out from the major nectar flows allows you to align these peak nectar flows of Bee Season 1 & 2 with peak forager populations.

Bee Season 2 follows the dearth, and just like when the spring rains and heat stimulate early brood production; the lack of rain and excessive heat de-stimulates brood production. This is a natural and necessary cycle which ultimately sets our colonies up for proper winter populations.

But an additional downside that plays out in this death period - varroa mites. Aside from the damage that varroa can inflict on our bees directly, it has become a vector for pathogens that can be hard to detect, let alone “cure.” Ultimately the best tool in our arsenal is to use the bee’s own resistance and immune systems through proper nutrition to ward off and combat bacterial and viral issues.

I have spent the last couple of years honing monitoring as a beekeeping strategy. I then worked the past year and a half+ with OSBA on the Apiary Diagnostic Kit (ADK) concentrating on monitoring for pests and diseases. This summer lets push monitoring to include nutrition.

To recap, I have made the argument that there are two primary bee seasons in Ohio each year. The start of and duration of each season varies by +/- two to three weeks each year. In between each season there is a dearth zone where just like in the spring, feeding for starvation, stimulation, and nutrition can be vital to reducing overall hive mortality and increasing colony production. Finally, given the inter/intra year variations, combined with colony variability, it is important to using monitoring as a tool to regularly assess colony health and resources and treat (for pests or nutrition) accordingly.

I did end the above cited bee meeting on the positive note that though we were all but done with Bee Season 1; Bee Season 2 and the added benefits that come with a nutrition monitoring program still lay before us. Astounding that there are second chances even in beekeeping!
In order to get the longest life out of Varroa control products, rotation is essential. Mite resistance can develop in a short period of time and that is why it is key to rotate your control materials with products like Apistan®. Rotating on an annual or semi-annual basis with products that have different modes of action will help manage mite resistance. Start your rotation program with Apistan®.

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

Marion Ackman

Marion passed away at the age of 82 on May 2, 2017.
Throughout his life he was an avid gardener, fisherman, woodworker and keeper of bees.
Upon retirement he focused more attention on bee culture growing his colonies, serving as bee inspector of Warren and Clermont Counties and sharing his knowledge and love of these industrious creatures.
He mentored many people and participated in many educational beekeeping programs in southwestern Ohio.

Lisa Marie Eubanks - Heilman

Departed this world on May 29, 2017 after a valiant fight against cancer.
Her life took a dramatic turn when she reconnect-ed with the Love of her Life, The Bee Man. He was the man she was meant to be with, her soul mate, Dave Heilman. The man she had dated so many years before, but had never forgotten.
They were married 2 ½ years ago and bloomed ever since.
Lisa was proceeded in death by her father and her sister. She is survived by the love of her life David Heilman, mother Sherrill Eubanks, brothers Bill Eubanks and Jon Eubanks and his new wife Yolanda, nephews Josh Cook and Christian Eubanks, her dog Winston and Cat Job.
This year is buzzing along faster than the speed of sound. I can’t believe with 3/4 way through the year, and my to do list is not that far along, unfortunately.

As we say every year this is an unusual year, but no matter what our bees still march forward planning for the winter.

We still have so much ahead of us this year, the OSBA pavilion at the Ohio State fair, county fairs, more monitoring for sustainability presentations, and of course the OSBA fall conference with our special guest speakers, honey contest, auction table, and a whole variety of great vendors.

I had the opportunity this year to attend a regional conference in Indiana. While the conference was interesting, some best information and conversation occurred in the hallways and during lunch. I know that when you attend the OSBA Fall Conference on November 4 in Plain City, Ohio you will be enjoying not only our great breakout sessions, but also the camaraderie of your fellow beekeepers.

Speaking of interesting conversation, please feel free to stop by OSBA Pavilion at the Ohio State Fair and chat with me or any of the other OSBA officers while we are volunteering throughout the week. Your input is critical to the success of future programming.

Speaking of programming, we are currently developing some new programs for 2018 that we will announce at the upcoming OSBA Fall Conference.

I would like to thank all of the people who have been responding to the ADK monthly survey. Your input will help OSBA and researchers better understand the needs of Ohio beekeepers and beekeeping. Thank you for helping to make the surveys a great success.

Before you know it, we will be knee deep or hip deep in snow and looking for the coming spring. Let’s get out and enjoy our bees now!

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The end of a productive day in the bee yard: John Grafton and his granddaughter Isabel
# 2017 Ohio State Beekeeper’s Association

## Officers and Contacts

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### 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
- Apiary Diagnostic Kit

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
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