OSBA Fall Conference, November 4, 2017, Plain City, Ohio

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

Tolles Career and Technical Center, 7877 U.S. 42, Plain City, OH 43064

Register

REGISTRATION FEES
$25 - OSBA Member Pre-Registered
$35 - OSBA Member at the door
$35 - Non Member
$10 - OSBA Guest (Spouse or children under 18 with paid OSBA Member)

Boxed Lunch: $9.00 will only be available with pre-paid registration

Registration – 7:45—8:30 a.m.
Hot beverages and donuts will be provided.
Drop off Honey Entries contest— see rules on page 9
Drop off bee samples for Pollen testing— see page 3

President’s Welcome and Announcements

Speakers and Topics:

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren
Biodiversity and the Honey Bee Problems
Risk Assessment of Pesticides and Honey Bees
The Future of Bee Friendly Agriculture

Meghan Milbrath
Gentle Beekeeping
Small Scale Queen Rearing
Sustainable Northern Beekeeping using late season nucs

Reed Johnson
Where are bees going? Using pollen analysis and waggle dance interpretation to understand foraging in Ohio’s honey bees

Brad Hibbard
Using Hive Tracks Software as your Apiary Diary (Bring your tablets/laptops pre-loaded with the free software)

Jamie Walters
Your Second Year Beekeeping - Bee Ready!

Alex Zomchek
Achieving near-ZERO Hive Losses
“Pushing” your Bees Using Monitoring

Christie Welch
Using Social Media to Market Your Business
The Facebook Basics - What Every Local Association and Business Needs to Know! (Bring your tablets/laptops for some hands-on education)

Macy Reynolds
Plants that provide nectar and pollen for honey bees
Flowering plants for the late summer “dearth”

Education is not an Accessory
Education is a Necessity
Our OSBA Fall Conference Vendor List

Includes:

Bastin Honey Bee Farm LLC
Bee Calm & Hive On
BEE-potheccary
Bella’s Bee Supply
Betterbee
Blue Sky Bee Supply
Brushy Mountain Bee Supply
Dadant (contact Clay at the Frankfort location for special discounts: 502-848-0000)
Ernst Seeds
Honey Run Apiaries
Huron City Bee Company
Kelley Beekeeping
Mann Lake
Mel Disselkoen
Mockingbird Meadows
Ohio Prairie Nursery
Pollinator Stewardship Council
Reid’s Apiary & Bee-tique
Rock Bridge Trees
Simpsons Bee Supply
Stratford Ecological Center
Strong Microbials
Superior Bee
Wicwas Press
Wifi Hives
Honey Testing at the OSBA Fall Conference

What plants do Ohio bees visit to make honey? Bring your honey to contribute to The Ohio State University research.

The Honey Bee Lab at the The Ohio State University wants you to bring your honey for pollen analysis to the Fall Meeting. Drs. Reed Johnson and Chia Lin will isolate pollen from your honey and analyze the pollen under the microscope at the conference so you can learn what flowers your bees were visiting when they were making the honey you harvested. Additionally, all honey provided will be analyzed over the coming year using DNA sequencing to more precisely identify the flowers that are most visited by bees in Ohio.

If you want to participate in this research and want to have your honey analyzed at the OSBA Fall meeting just follow these steps:

1. Bring at least 2 oz. of honey collected from a single apiary any time in 2016 or 2017.
2. Drop your honey off at the OSU Bee Lab table. We will transfer the honey to our own container and return the bottle or jar and remaining honey to you.
3. Fill out a short anonymous survey that will ask you the location of the apiary from which the honey was collected, the approximate dates you added and removed honey supers and your best guess as to the flowers bees were visiting to make the honey.
4. You will receive a unique code that will be used to communicate the results.

Dr. Johnson’s team will work through as many honey samples as they can during the OSBA meeting and post pollen results on a board for you to check. Please note, the team will not be able to process all honey samples provided to them at the meeting and they will be working through them on a first-come first-served basis.

Pollen analysis is time-consuming and they will probably only get through the first 5-10 samples at the meeting. Results following the meeting may take a year to produce and will be published in the OSBA quarterly newsletter.

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

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

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

New OSBA Life Members

The following beekeeper has shown their support of OSBA by becoming a Life Member.

Life Membership consists of a one-time payment to OSBA of $200.

Corey Lee Hassell
The Save The Honey Bee License Plate - What’s on Your Car?

This plate help bring public awareness to the importance of honey bees and beekeepers, and provides funding for OSBA projects relating to research, education and outreach. One project with multiple benefits, thanks to a team effort.

Want to order one for yourself? Just go to www.oplates.com when you renew your plates. Under specialty plates it is listed as “Ohio Beekeepers”. What will your plate say?

So What is an Apiary Diagnostic Kit?

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

The OSBA ADK (Apiary Diagnostic Kit) Committee developed a portable kit complete with tools and a full-color laminated field guide to help identify issues, and provide a tracking form for each hive visit. Our 50 intrepid volunteers put the kits through their paces 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 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 for a limited time at a special price of $49.99 (plus shipping) from our website, or $45 at the OSBA table at upcoming Fall Conference. The manual, by itself, is available on-line for $24.99 (free shipping), or $20 at the OSBA table. Bulk order pricing for the manuals is available.

www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org/adk
Creamed Honey the LYSON Way

Spreadable, scoopable and less messy than liquid honey, creamed honey is popular in Europe and makes a great addition to your product line. Lyson has developed this machine to produce creamed honey in bulk. It’s designed to mix honey and seed crystal on a programmed schedule with a heavy duty, variable speed AC motor. The resulting product is beautiful light creamed honey!

The mixing action evenly distributes the seed crystals throughout the honey, creating more uniformly crystalized honey. In addition, the regular mixing helps break up crystals that have grown too large. The end result is very smooth and spreadable creamed honey. This dedicated machine creates larger quantities of creamed honey with ease without wearing out your kitchen mixer or drill.

Creamers are available in 50, 70, 100, 150, 200, and 600 liter sizes. The 50 and 70 liter sizes are 120V; those larger are 230V. Price starts at $1,275.

For a limited time, free shipping on all models in stock!*  
*Offer good through November 2017. Our honey creamer ships free via LTL to a commercial address in the contiguous USA.

We also have the perfect label for your creamed honey.

- Gold, Clear and Kraft Paper labels allow for total customization.
- 4-Color designs created with the beekeeper in mind.
- Labels to fit every container from the 2oz. Bear to the 5 gallon bucket.

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Ohio Beekeeping

OSBA - Annual Fall Conference
November 4, 2017 - Plain City, Ohio
Tolles Career Center - 7877 US Highway 42 S - Plain City, OH 43064

REGISTRATION

**Mail Deadline October 24th**

Online registration is also available at:
www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org

*Online registration deadline October 24th*

Name: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________

Names of Additional Attendees: ____________________________

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<td>Lunch</td>
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**Subway to Go Box** lunch includes sandwich, lettuce, chips, cookie and beverage:
- Veggie Delight
- Turkey Breast
- Italian BMT

I will be entering the Honey Contest in the following categories - One entry per category per household
(no cost, but **pre-registration and OSBA membership is required**)
- Light Honey
- Beeswax
- Flavored Granulated Honey
- Gift Baskets

I will be bringing in samples for Honey Testing
- Yes

Send your registration and payment to: (Checks should be made out to OSBA)
Michele Colopy, c/o OSBA
1624 Idlewood Ave
Akron, OH 44313
Questions may be sent to webmaster@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Total Amount Due: ____________________________
OSBA 4-H Sponsorship Winner Updates

Kay Lennartz

The past couple of months with my bees have been very busy. I have been monitoring the mite counts and small hive beetle populations weekly in order to maintain balance. I have noticed that the bee population has greatly increased over the past month and there are many frames of capped brood in each hive.

Throughout the month of July I spent many hours compiling records and taking pictures of my beekeeping skills for my 4-H beekeeping project. I was judged at the Mercer County Fair on July 12 and was chosen to represent my county at the Ohio State Fair. There I was chosen for an Outstanding of the Day Ribbon and gained new insights on how to better manage my hives from my judge Alex Zomcheck.

In the upcoming months, I look forward to attending more meetings of the Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association and preparing my equipment for next year.

Ben Holliday

I have been busy in my hives, checking on how much honey they have and that they are still doing well. With the help of my mentor Jon, we did a sugar shake to check for Varroa. My hives are on the border of needing treatment so that's my next step. We have purchased mite strips for that. Looking forward to November.

OSBA 4-H Sponsorship Program 2018

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association supports new, young beekeepers through our 4-H Partnership Program. OSBA realizes the success of a new beekeeper is not reliant on the work of the student and money alone, but by the effort of a partnership. Therefore, the 4-H Partnership Program encourages participation of the guardian, 4-H adviser, local association and mentor.

The number of scholarships available per year will vary based on the amount of available funds and donations. For 2018 there are 5 scholarships available.

Selection Criteria

- Youth must be between the ages of 12 and 18 by January 1st of the current year of the scholarship.
- Applicant must be currently enrolled in a public or private school, or homeschooled.
- Must be a current member of 4-H.
- Applicant must complete and return all paperwork, including permission and agreement form signed by parent or guardian. The application with supporting documents, as well as the waiver/binder form must be received by the Program Coordinator between October 1, 2017 through November 21, 2017.

Selection Process

- After all applications have been received, a selection committee will consider each one and select finalists.
- Finalists and/or their mentors may be contacted for a phone interview.
- The 4-H Beekeeping Partnership Program Scholars will be announced by January 6, 2018.
- Selection by the committee is final.

For additional information, questions or comments see the OSBA website at www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org or contact us at 4h@ohiostatebeekeepers.org or call 567-703-6722.
3rd update, continued

Brian Barnhart

March 3: I went to the meeting at the Tri County Beekeepers Association in Wooster Ohio.

March 19: I went out and installed my bees. It was sprinkling and the temperature was 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

April 10: I checked my first hive. It has one super with ten frames. It was windy. There was both honey and pollen present. I ID’d the Queen and saw all three brood stages. The brood pattern was compact. I am feeding a pollen patty and syrup. Overall condition of hive: Thriving

April 10: I checked my second hive. It also has 1 super with ten frames. It was still windy. Honey and pollen were also present in my second hive. I also ID’d the queen and saw all three brood stages in my second hive. Brood pattern was spotty. I am feeding syrup and a pollen patty. Overall condition of hive: average.

April 26: I checked my first hive. I added another super to my first hive. I now have two supers and twenty frames. It was bright and sunny. Honey and pollen were present. I saw all three brood stages. Brood pattern was compact. Still feeding pollen patty and syrup. Overall condition of hive: average.

April 26: I checked my second hive. I also added another super to my second hive. Now I have two supers and twenty frames in both of my hives. It was bright and sunny. Honey and pollen were present. I saw all three brood stages. Brood pattern was compact. I am still feeding pollen patties and syrup. Overall condition of hive: average.

May 25: I went to a Bee Conference about American and European Foulbrood, Varroa mites, and nosema. The conference was led by Dr. Kirsten S. Traynor.

June 12: I checked my first hive, added another super. I now have three supers and thirty frames. It was sunny. Honey and pollen were present. I saw all three brood stages. Brood pattern was compact. I have six brood frames, six honey/nectar frames, two pollen frames, and twelve open comb frames. No longer feeding my first hive. Removed entrance reducer from my first hive. Overall condition of hive: average.

June 12: I checked my second hive. I added another super to my second hive. I now have three supers and thirty frames on each hive. It was sunny. Honey and pollen were present. Saw all three brood stages. Brood pattern was compact. I have eleven brood frames, five honey/nectar frames, three pollen frames, and ten open comb frames. Saw two varroa mites. No longer feeding my second hive. Removed entrance reducer for second hive. Overall condition of hive: thriving.

July 1: I checked my first hive. It was sunny with clouds. Only have three supers and thirty frames. Both honey and pollen present. Saw all three brood stages. Brood pattern was compact. Temperament was good. Overall condition of hive: thriving.

July 1: I checked my second hive. It was sunny with clouds. Only have three supers with thirty frames in my first hive. Honey and pollen present. Saw all three brood stages. Brood pattern was compact. Temperament of hive was good. Overall condition of hive: thriving.

July 20: I checked my first hive. It was cloudy and hot. Only three supers thirty frames on my first hive. Honey was present, but was unsure if there was pollen. Saw all three brood stages. Brood pattern was compact. Hive temperament was good. Overall condition of hive: thriving.

July 20: I checked my second hive. It was cloudy and hot. Only have three supers and thirty frames in my second hive. Honey and pollen present. Saw all three brood stages. Brood pattern was compact. Temperament of the hive was great. Overall condition of hive: thriving.

Sophie Lucas

Sophie won First Place for her beekeeping project at the Wyandot County Fair.
Honey Judging Event at the OSBA Fall Conference

The 2017 Fall Conference will feature open honey judging. Attendees will be able to observe the judging that takes place throughout the day. Judges James Thompson and John Grafton will answer your questions as they evaluate the entries. Get great hints on how to make your entries a prize winner. Enter your honey and win prizes and bragging rights!

Rules:

- Open to OSBA Members only.
- Entries must be pre-registered.
- There is no cost to enter the honey contest this year.
- One entry per category per household.
- The number and type of container required varies by category. (See the specifications in each category below).
- Entries must be turned in during registration the day of the event.
- Prizes will be awarded at the closing session at the end of the day.
- Entries may be picked up after the closing session.
- Any entries not picked up after the closing session will become property of OSBA to be given away or disposed of.
- All decisions by the judge are final.

Categories:

- **Light Extracted Honey** (includes water white, extra white, white, extra light amber): Three 1# glass gambier or queenline jars
- **Wax**: 1/2 to 1 pound entry.
- **Flavored Granulated Honey**: Three wide mouth glass containers ranging between 12 oz to 1 ½ pounds.
- **Gift Baskets**: Maximum of 12 pounds (total including the container and contents), and at least ¾ of the items must be hive products produced by the beekeeper.

Prizes

- **First Prize**: Ribbon and $20 (one awarded in each category)
- **Second Prize**: Ribbon and $10 (one awarded in each category)
- **Best of Show**: Rosette and $20
A BIG OSBA THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FAIR VOLUNTEERS
at OSBA’s Pavilion at the Ohio State Fair

Louise Adkins  Paul Finley  Dru Pritchard
Doug Allgood  J.R. Gerhardt  Tom Rathbun
Stephanie Allgood  Duane Hathaway  Linda Rathbun
Nina Bagley  Mike Hatter  Todd Rodgers
Susan Baker  Joe Heider  Lauri Stover
Tina Bobek  Bobbi Heider  Earl Stover
Joe Bobek  Allen Heindel  Linda Stoverock
Rich Brutsche  Mary Heindel  Scott Stoverock
Terri Brutsche  Larry Hoover  Carolyn Stucke
Gentry Clark  Mike Hubbell  Ron Stucke
Gary Clark  Joyce Hubbell  Daniel Surina
Tess Conrad, Lithopolis Honey Queen  Becky Lammers  Jim Tippie
Barry Conrad  Joe Lammers  Sharon Treaster
Carmen Conrad  Terry Lieberman-Smith  Susan Valentine-Cooper
Arnold Crabtree  Susan Maxwell  David Veitch
Darla Crabtree  Zale Maxwell  Jamie Walters
David Crawford  Willy Merrill  Dwight Wells
Sue Daly  Angel Mitchell  Marishka Wile
Fran Davidson  Anita Mitchell  Diana Willier
Tom Davidson  David Mitchell  Dwight Wilson
Sheila Dicken  Roger Myers  Jerry Wilson
Mike Doseck  Teresa Parker  Phil Young
Matt Dunham  Rod Pritchard

Bee City USA– Why Not Your City in 2018?

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, 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 Ohio communities moving toward becoming a Bee City USA.

For more information: http://www.beecityusa.org/
OSBA Pavilion at the Ohio State Fair—See You Next Year!

OSBA Fair Committee: Zale Maxwell, Tina Bobeck, Chairperson Nina Bagley, Dwight Wells, David Crawford. Not pictured, Marishka Wile

Our Two Queen Hive! Lithopolis Honey Queen, Tess Conrad, and the American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox show off the OSBA Save the Honey Bee License Plate

American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox and our special OSBA guest—Hon E. Bear visited the midway!

American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox, and Zale Maxwell chat with the audience after the “Tour of the Beeyard” presentation
Meet the Candidates Running for the OSBA Board:

Terry Lieberman-Smith - OSBA President
Why do you like beekeeping? I enjoy spending time working with the bees.
What skills do you bring to the position? My skillset includes organizing, planning, analysis, grant writing, and the desire to see OSBA provide leadership and support to Ohio beekeepers and beekeeping associations.

Peggy Garnes - OSBA Vice-President
Why do you like beekeeping? I enjoy the challenges of beekeeping, raising queens and bees and getting to share gained knowledge with others.
What skills do you bring to the position? I am a good organizer, listener and I bring management skills.

Michele Colopy - OSBA Treasurer
Why do you like beekeeping? I enjoy the connection to nature and the personal interaction with the “science” of beekeeping and honey bees.
What skills do you bring to the position? Knowledge of Quickbooks software, knowledge of databases, experience developing financial policies and procedures for a variety of nonprofits across 20 years of work in nonprofits. I have experience writing and managing grants, working with auditors of grants, and working with CPA’s conducting organizational audits. Much can be learned from the financial reports of any organization, and it is important to instill that understanding in the Board, our affiliates, and the general membership.

Tim Arheit - OSBA Secretary
Why do you like beekeeping? Fun, unique, outdoors
What skills do you bring to the position? Computer and programming. Experience in the organization.

Joe Heider - OSBA Regional Director - Crossroads
(Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Jefferson, Harrison, Holmes, Mahoning, Muskingun, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne.)

Why do you like beekeeping? I enjoy working with the bees, making splits and raising queens. The honey is a nice bonus too.
What skills do you bring to the position? A willingness to help people as best as I can

Allyson May - OSBA Regional Director - Western Reserve (Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Medina, Summit, Portage and Trumbull)
Why do you like beekeeping? I love nature and all that it encompasses. Beekeeping has allowed me to have a greater appreciation and understanding for and of the honey bee and its colony. I like the beekeeping community, especially working to help educate and support local beekeepers in my area, across the state of Ohio and in neighboring states as well.
I am also a participant in the Master Beekeeping Program and I regularly attend meetings and conferences to increase my knowledge base. Beekeeping is dynamic and it is important and relevant to continue to learn.
What skills do you bring to the position? I have had the opportunity to teach beginning beekeeping classes for 3 local associations over the last 3 years and I actively mentor many beekeepers in my area. I also have represented my local association and OSBA at community outreach events such as the County Fair, the National Honey Bee Day and National Pollinator Week Celebration. I enjoy and am comfortable talking with and educating the general public about the importance of honey bees, pollinators and the environment. I enjoy teaching and mentoring.

Don Crock - OSBA Regional Director - Buckeye Hills
(Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington.)

What do you like about beekeeping? I have 67 acres with a small orchard, gardens, etc, and have developed a passion for beekeeping. I have been teaching Beginner Beekeeping for 4 years and have enjoyed that as well.
What skills do you bring to the position? I have worked in a leadership position for 37 years and recently retired. I have been on several boards and have diplomacy, but I’m not afraid to speak.

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.
Ohio State Beekeepers Association
Absentee Voting Ballots
Annual meeting November 4, 2017

Please place a check mark by your choice for each position. Only vote for the Director in your region

2017 Absentee Ballot

The new constitution passed at the Fall 2014 Conference allows for absentee ballots to be cast by its members to allow those who cannot attend the conference to participate.

- Only one ballot per OSBA membership will be counted.
- Membership in OSBA must be current.
- If multiple ballots are received by a member, only the first one will be counted.
- Vote for not more than one individual per position.
- Write in candidates are allowed but must meet the criteria on the nominations application, and accept the position if elected.
- Ballots must be sent to the following address and MUST BE RECEIVED by October 28th, 2017
  Mike Doseck
  09866 N CR-66A
  New Bremen, OH 45869

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<td>President: Terry Lieberman-Smith</td>
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<td>Crossroads: Joe Heider</td>
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<td>Western Reserve: Allyson May</td>
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GET THE BEST IN AND OUT OF YOUR HIVES

WITH LOCATIONS IN HACKENSACK, MN; WOODLAND, CA; WILKES-BARRE, PA; AND MARSHALL, TX. WE HERE AT MANN LAKE LTD. STRIVE TO BRING YOU THE BEST SERVICE AND PRODUCTS TO GET THE MOST IN AND OUT OF YOUR HIVES.

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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 with all your friends and family and raise even more money to support the next generation of beekeepers.

http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/amazon

New OSBA Program in 2018
Underserved Groups Program Grant

OSBA has received many requests for educational materials over the past few years from underserved groups, such as prisons, inner-city afterschool clubs, rural area outreach groups, etc.

Because part of OSBA’s mission is to provide educational support and outreach to the beekeeping community, we created an educational package that would fill the need of underserved groups in our state.

While educational materials are important, nothing replaces the need for hands-on training, therefore, we also contact local associations so they can be aware of groups that need mentoring in their area.

Your OSBA Board has voted to create an Underserved Groups Program Grant for up to 5 starter kits. These kits will contain a series of beekeeping books, and OSBA ADK (while available), along with one of the OSBA DVDs.

Any group seeking this grant will need to request the application from our OSBA Treasurer, Michele Colopy at: treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org.

Save The Honey Bee Stickers

These 2 inch circular stickers are available for purchase 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/
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OSBA is a non-profit organization whose mission is 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: www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org and on page 35 of this edition.
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In the previous newsletter I described a few basic startup and equipment ideas. Part II deals with colony management topics. Again, my intent is to explain and hopefully simplify some of the confusion that surrounds basic colony management.

Failing Colonies

Failing colonies are just that, colonies that are for one reason or another in a general state of decline. Once you’ve identified a sub-par colony, the question becomes, what do you do with it? Suggestions range from uniting to babying. If you want to squander your time and money fruitlessly, take your choice. A much better option is to remove the emotion and deal with each specific situation. For example, if the problem is simply queen failure, and the season is not too far advanced, immediate queen replacement would be in order. Uniting a failing colony with a healthy one on the assumption that all will turn out well is crazy. Why run the risk of damaging the good colony? The same applies to weak colonies. While there are always exceptions, (Uniting queen mating nucs at seasons end would be one example) combining two or more weak colonies doesn’t necessarily create a strong healthy unit.

More complicated issues mandate a different strategy. Colonies that show symptoms of severe Varroa / virus issues, pesticide damage, or some unknown malady should be removed from the apiary and treated accordingly. Any attempt to nurse this type of colony back to health is almost certain to fail. When practical, salvageable brood comb should be cleaned up and stored for future use. Combs recovered from failing colonies and / or winter deadouts are a real asset to colony management the following spring.

Basic Feeding Procedures

Forget the Boardman feeder, the internal division board feeder, and the hive-top feeder, especially the Styrofoam models. The absolute best way for the small beekeeper to feed his or her bees is via a quart Mason jar or gallon jug elevated above the center hole in the inner cover. Feeding in this manner is both economical and extremely effective. The rate of syrup consumption is controlled by the number of holes punched in the container lid. The more holes the greater the rate of consumption. Ideally the holes should be about 1/16 inch in diameter, or about the size of a standard frame nail. Use a 4 or 6d nail and a tack hammer; tap the nail just hard enough to drive the point partially through the metal lid. With plastic lids, use the aforementioned 1/16 or 3/32 inch diameter drill. (Bees tend to propolize the holes in plastic lids; this problem is almost non-existent with metal lids) When inverted over the inner cover, the feeder should be elevated about a quarter of an inch to allow the colony complete access to the feed holes. Use a couple of empty supers or a hive body to protect the feeder from the elements. With this system, once feeding has commenced, it’s often possible to quickly replace or refill the feeder without the use of either a smoker or veil.

Simple Splits

The easiest way to start a split is to transfer the startup resources, a couple frames of brood along with plenty of extra adult bees, into a five frame nuc box. The nuc box should have a solid bottom board along with a standard wooden entrance reducer. The entrance opening should correspond to the outside air temperature. At 50 degrees or less the opening should be reduced down to one or two bees wide. In operation the small cavity traps a large portion of the heat given off by the cluster. This along with the extra bees allows the young queen to expand her broodnest at a much faster rate than would be possible in larger equipment. Once brood from the new queen starts to emerge, the colony will immediately require additional comb space. And that brings us to the real advantage of starting splits in nuc boxes. At that point you can add a second five frame box filled with drawn comb, a couple of which contain a reasonable amount of honey. If drawn comb is unavailable substitute frames of foundation. (This is a prime example of a relatively weak colony that will readily draw foundation) If there is a honey flow in progress, you’re all set. If not, you’ll have to feed thin syrup until the flow begins. By the time the foundation in the second box has been drawn out, the season will have progressed to the point where you can safely transfer the nuc into standard equipment.

Local Queens

All beekeeping is local, and queens are no exception. Due to the general lack of mating control, genetics obtained through the purchase of mated queens will usually adjust to local norms within three of four generations, often less. As evidence I’ll cite an example that occurred in my small operation some time in the late 1980’s. I purchased a dozen or so Italian queens from a well known California queen producer. (Now deceased) I’d read about this stock and decided it was worth a try. As was my normal practice at the time, I introduced the queens into summer splits and allowed them to grow to suitable overwintering strength. To say these queens were prolific would be a gross understatement. By the time cold weather arrived most of these colonies were in need of a third hive body. They never stopped rearing brood! Some had four frames of capped brood in mid January! In all other respects they were pretty nice bees. I decided to feed them that first winter, but they were on their own after that. The following season several produced five and six supers of honey, but consumed half of it before I could remove it. If memory serves, about two thirds of those colonies perished the second winter. The remainder had adjusted their brood rearing to the point they were almost...
indistinguishable from their neighbors. [Obviously these colonies had superceded one or more times] But they remained gentle, highly productive bees, plus they overwintered well! If I’d had the time, I would have grafted off them in a minute! I’ve observed several other examples of this type of genetic adaptation over the years, but never anything quite so pronounced.

Six or eight years ago during a phone conversation with a Northeastern U.S. queen producer, he suggested a similar strategy for acquiring suitable breeder queens on the cheap. His recommendation, and this would be ideal for a small group or club, was to purchase 10-12 queens from a favorite producer, observe them for a full season, and then rear daughters from the best two or three. The key lies with the analytics. You have the opportunity, albeit on a small scale, to select for traits that you find desirable. If you’re looking for a starting point, I might suggest Ray Oliverez Carniolans, preferably those originating from his California production yards. They’re Really Nice Bees! (Refer to the article on Notching, OSBA Newsletter – first quarter 2014)

Swarm Control

Swarm control is one of the more challenging aspects of colony management. If you’re contemplating a long association with bees, it’s imperative that you understand how to control or manage the swarming impulse. The basics of swarm control revolve around broodnest congestion, the age of the queen, and adequate nectar storage space. Beekeeper experience can also play a critical role in successful swarm control.

The age of the queen is just that. The older the queen, the greater the chances her colony will swarm. Colonies headed by two year old queens swarm with greater frequency than colonies with younger queens, and so forth. Mark your queens to track their age, and re-queen as necessary. And by all means requeen any colony that swarms two or more years in succession. Adequate nectar storage space is another neglected aspect of swarm control. You need to supply abundant super comb well ahead of the main flow, otherwise early incoming nectar will end up in the broodnest, an absolute worst case scenario. And foundation doesn’t qualify as adequate nectar storage space!

Broodnest congestion is the biggest concern when it comes to swarm management. Briefly, brood rearing requires warmth of roughly 93-94 degrees, so ditch the screened bottom, and retain a good entrance reducer. Allow the colony to access the entire broodnest, for brood rearing! If a colony is honey bound coming out of winter, replace the excess frames of honey with frames of empty drawn comb, not foundation. And make sure your best quality worker comb is located in the center of the broodnest. Move lesser quality combs to the outside or transfer them into the lower brood box. When you equalize strong colonies, place an emphasis on adult bees over frames of brood. In other words, you want to remove the excess bees that would otherwise leave with an early swarm. (Early in the season it’s almost impossible to remove too many adult bees) You’ll get the best results if you weaken the strongest colonies at regular intervals (10-14 days) rather than all at once. Consider this simple formula; it’s worked well for me. For every frame of brood you remove, shake the bees off one or two additional frames of brood, depending on colony strength. The closer you get to the main flow the less brood you remove. Make sure you leave enough brood to supply the bees that will collect the crop. I know this sounds complicated, but with a little practice this procedure will become just another manipulation! Best of Luck!

(For more information refer to: Swarming, Causes and Controls, American Bee Journal, April 2015)
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Winners in the Ohio State Fair Honey Contest—Sponsored by OSBA

Congratulations One and All

**Honey-water white and extra white**
1. Nina Bagley
2. Daniel Surina
3. Theresa Lieberman-Smith

**Honey- white(34mm)**
1. Louise Adkins
2. Daniel Surina

**Honey-extra light amber to light amber**
1. Theresa Lieberman-Smith
2. Jo Shuman
3. Nina Bagley

**Honey-amber and dark amber**
1. Theresa Lieberman-Smith—Best of Show
2. Patricia Demarian
3. Susan Rhodes

**Honey-creamed/granulated**
1. Theresa Lieberman-Smith
2. Marie Crawford

**Honey frames**
1. Nina Bagley
2. Phillip McCutcheon

**Bee/Honey gift item**
1. Theresa Lieberman-Smith
2. Susan Rhodes

**Beeswax Chunk**
1. Theresa Lieberman-Smith—Best of Show

**Honey BBQ Sauce**
1. Nina Bagley
2. Michael J
3. Jo Shuman

**Bread**
1. Judy Sandman—Best of Show
2. Janet Gill
3. Victoria Geib

**Brownies**
1. Kristyne McDougle
2. Cheryl Adkins
3. Theresa Lieberman-Smith

**Cake**
1. Barb Shumaker
2. Kristyne McDougle
3. Cheryl Adkins

**Cookies**
1. Janet Gill
2. Anne Schlegel
3. Theresa Lieberman-Smith

**Pie**
1. Nina Bagley
OSBA Already Prepping for a Great 2018 Beekeeping Year

New Beekeepers 2018--
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 2017/2018 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

GOOD NEWS! Our USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant provides the complimentary ADK for new beekeepers who take a beginner class in 2018, register their bees, and purchase beekeeping equipment! These kits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. So make sure your instructor sends in the sign-up form so that you can not only start your eligibility for a complimentary ADK, but also your will receive a complimentary 1 year membership to OSBA.

OSBA Outreach to Beginner Beekeeping Classes - Continues in 2018

This year’s outreach to those enrolled in New Beekeeper Schools sponsored by local associations was outstanding. We sent out over 1000 OSBA Care Package Plus.

Each student received educational information, promotional items, pen, PLUS one year complimentary membership to OSBA.

We all know that beekeeping is not an inexpensive activity, and we want all new-bees to start on the right track - education, fellowship and awareness of all that OSBA offers.

We are offering this program again in 2018. We will be sending out information to local association leaders at the beginning of next year - Make sure that we have your association’s updated contact information! Send your information to:

Tim Arheit: president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org or Terry Lieberman-Smith: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com
Association Corner

From Peggy Garnes – Western Reserve Region:

Geauga County Beekeepers Association had Peggy Garnes as their Monitoring for Sustainability speaker for their July meeting.

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association would like to thank everyone who attended our Field Day Conference in May. Dr Seeley was a great speaker and a really nice guy to work with at out event.

Next, GCBA had a great participation at this year’s Cuyahoga County Fair, it was great to watch the kids and adults at our permanently mounted observation window hive. This year we added a color camera (BEE CAM) to the entrance outside with a monitor so that people could see the bees come and go from the hive. Also the nightly honey extraction demonstrations was a crowd pleaser.

Lastly, a big thank you to Fairboard President Tim Fowler for bringing in the representative from Governor Kasich’s Office to the Bee Barn; he was quite impressed on the size of the window hive and the permanently installed extraction room. Thanks to all who helped out and attended this year’s Fair!

Lorain County Beekeepers Association The Lorain County Beekeepers had a very nice weather week at the Lorain County Fair. Even though attendance was down for the second year in a row, spirits were high and a great time was had by all. Our LCBA Honey Junction display added a suspended train track with attracted kids of all ages. Our thank you to Carmen Conrad for judging our honey and honey products this year. We incorporated bee buses in a maze into our display and had 3 different contest guessing games for the bee buses - guess the number of bee buses, guess the weight of the bees in a bee bus, and what was the total weight of all the bee buses filled with bees. Picture below: LCBA’s Honey Junction.

We are getting ready for our fall banquet in October and participating in the Birmingham Arts & Crafts Festival. Plans will be starting soon for our beginning beekeepers classes in early winter. Denzil St. Clair just demonstrated at our September member meeting how to start getting our hives ready for fall. Happy Fall to Everyone!

The Medina Beekeepers were busy this Fair season with a re-designed fair booth and a brand new 5 frame tall observation hive. The Public loved the new hive and it’s placement near the door drew in many fairgoers that may not have dropped in to see the displays in the Agriculture Building. While several new beekeepers sold out of their honey well before mid week, the public learned how difficult managing bee hives can bee. Many first year beekeepers spent quality time with the seasoned beekeepers of the club and asked those burning questions that keep them up at night.

The Annual Picnic was held in a new venue this summer and the members attending loved it. It seems this new spot near I-71 might win out for next year’s event. Conveniently located near I-71, many members arrived with their desserts and sides ready for an evening of beekeeping chatting and joke telling. A good time was had by all!

Portage County Beekeepers has been continuing to strengthen as they approach 100 members. The July meeting hosted a great speaker, Dr. Lehnert from Kent State University’s Biology department, who spoke on bee biology especially regarding feeding (he is a mouth parts specialist) and some extraordinary info on how stingers actually work (who knew they didn’t inject venom?). In September the annual Fall Field Day, which is open to the
public. They have strengthened the partnership with the county soil and water office who will now be home to both the Spring and Fall Field Days. This partnership has allowed the club an apiary at their facility. In October will the annual picnic will be tied to a workshop about extracting honey for hobby beekeepers. This workshop is a follow up to an opportunity presented to our membership to view a commercial extraction operation hosted by members Ed Kibler and Dan Kaminski.

**Lake County Beekeepers** held their 3rd formal meeting in August and voting on governing documents. The club discussed labeling laws, marketing honey, smoker lighting and topics for future meetings. They met at the Lake Farm Park in the Plant Science Center Building. [www.facebook.com/Lake-County-Beekeepers-of-Ohio-693445037494282/](http://www.facebook.com/Lake-County-Beekeepers-of-Ohio-693445037494282/)

**From Mike Doseck - Top of Ohio:**

**Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association** had their Annual Field Day on Saturday, July 15th. It was again held at Ray and Lynn Moeller's with the guest speaker, Jamie Walters. Jamie gave an overview of queen rearing and how each of us can become more self-sustaining as an individual and a club.

August was very busy with both the Mercer and Auglaize County Fairs, and the Ohio State Fair. The Club had almost twenty members involved in participating in educating and demonstrating beekeeping to interested people attending the three fairs over four total days.

September, being National Honey Month, they again put a display in the St. Marys Community Library’s display case. Many thanks to Carolyn Stucke, Justice and Hudson Plate for a wonderful display. Due to the newsletter deadline, a meeting with the Officials of the City of St. Marys, concerning the creation of pollinator habitats on City property, has not yet occurred. GGLBA, OSBA and Pollinator Stewardship Council will be consulting with the City Officials on processes, advantages and expectations of creating habitats within the City Limits. More to follow on this endeavor.

The upcoming months of October, November and December will resume meetings on the second Tuesday at the St Marys Community Library. The public is welcome and doors are open beginning at 6:30 PM.

**Miami Valley Beekeepers Association** held their Honey Harvest on August 6th, with record-breaking number of visitors in the audience. Speakers this quarter included OSBA Treasurer Michele Colopy, who discussed planting for pollinators. Plans are underway for the annual November Carry-In Dinner.

**From Dwight Wilson and Brad Hibbard- Maumee Valley Region:**

**Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association** does not meet from June-August, but their field day on June 24th provided their members with lots of great ideas to take back to the beeyard. Over 150 beekeepers attended this annual event. Breakout sessions included such topics as Re-queening, Queen Grating, Checkerboarding, OTS, How to use the OSBA ADK, and Extracting Honey. The day finished up with a delicious potluck meal. September meeting will cover Fall and Winter preparations.

**From the Miami Valley Region:**

**Warren County Beekeepers** had a busy summer with guest speakers Michele Colopy and Jamie Walters. September's meeting was the annual Picnic and Swap-Meet.

(Continued on page 29)
From Jeff Gabric - Heart of Ohio:

The Heart of Ohio Beekeepers have been busily harvesting their spring honey spoils. Honey production has been fair, but in July and August the bees have been consuming more than they are bringing in to the hive. Some beekeepers have been feeding to stimulate fall bee production. The Goldenrod flow has finally hit and reports of smelly hives and a lot of bee activity has been the norm.

East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association 3rd Annual Fall Beekeepers Educational Conference on September 23, 2017. Speakers included Tom Seely, Gary Reuter, and Keith Delaplane. This was a great opportunity to listen to some high powered speakers in the bee world. ECOBA Members are also getting ready for the Fairfield County fair at the beginning of October and competing in the honey judging contest.

Knox County Beekeepers Association has been busy with the Knox County Fair and sell honey and candles to the public. “It’s a great way to do honey bee outreach into the community” says Richard Shoots Vice President of the KCBA. “Some come to the fair every year just to find the queen bee” Bee yard meetings in August produced higher than acceptable mite counts comparing the sticky board counts with alcohol wash counts. They varied some but both counts were way past the mite threshold.

Central Ohio Beekeepers Association are planning their Fall Dinner November 15th at Der Dutchman Restaurant, in Plain City. The Lithopolis Honey Fest, one of their big events was a great success. No one knows how many people showed up at the fest but they gave out 3600 balloons to the passersby. They are currently evaluation all the photos received from their photo contest and the winner will be announced next month. They have completed the sale of their bee yard hives and have completed the last of their weekly bee yard meetings.

Morrow County Beekeepers have been excited about the Morrow county Fair and the stiff honey judging contest. Also their bee mascot (photo right) is a big hit with the little ones.

From Tom Rathbun - Erie Basin:

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association has been busy during the month of August with the area county fairs, they had set up at the Seneca, Sandusky, Erie, Ottawa and the Huron County fairs, with displays and honey sales.

On September 3, the club held their annual picnic with over 70 attendance. They also had honey extracting demonstration for the first time Beekeepers. (pictured on the right)

Richland Area Beekeepers Association held their annual Picnic (pictured below)—a great time for everyone.
From Marishka Wile and Chris Dresel - Ohio Valley:

**Brown County Beekeepers** had a busy summer, and fall promises much the same. In July, the club enjoyed a presentation by Jamie Walters who spoke about monitoring for sustainability by using the booklet and tools in OSBA’s Apiary Diagnostic Kit. On the 25th, the bee club participated in Natural Resource Day at the Clermont County Fair. This program was geared toward educating the younger fairgoers about all the wonders that nature offers. Kids and parents were able to examine a typical bee hive and all the equipment necessary to maintain it. Educational material was available to explain the importance that all pollinators play in our ecosystem by their ability to pollinate a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and flowers. It provided a great opportunity to educate the next generation of beekeepers.

In August, Clay Guthrie, Branch Manager of Dadant Bee Supplies in Frankfort, Kentucky was the guest speaker. The topic was “Fall and Winter Preparations for Your Bee Hive.” Also, from August 11-13th, BCBA maintained a presence at the Antique Farm Machinery Show to discuss beekeeping with the public, and provide a venue for club members to sell their honey. They also raffled off a starter hive, courtesy of Grant's Farm and Greenhouses, as well as a honey basket loaded full of bee products donated by club members. A variety of handout materials was available for those interested in beekeeping and creating bee friendly habitats by selecting the proper trees, shrubs and flowers beneficial to bees.

Then, on September 9th, the Milford-Miami Township Branch of the Clermont County Public Library System hosted an “Introduction to Beekeeping” program in celebration of National Honey Month. BCBA was asked to give the program. There were 34 people in attendance. The fall and early winter is an excellent time for such programs since it allows adequate time to order and assemble equipment, plus with the approaching holidays, a prospective beekeeper can “drop hints” about his or her new hobby. Yes, there are appropriate times to start beekeeping, but anytime is good time to learn about beekeeping! "The Seasonal Management of Bees: What To Do and When To Do It" was presented by School House Bees, Inc. of Visalia, Kentucky in September. The club’s meetings are back at the Western Brown High School for the duration of the school year. Don’t miss the Brown County Fair Sept. 25-30th. This “Little State Fair” is a wonderful event where BCBA has a popular booth. The fair also hosts an open honey show. Out-of-town entries are welcomed. All entries must be in by Sept 25th. For more information visit www.browncountybeekeepersassociation.org.

In July, **Adams County Beekeepers Association** welcomed author, and Brown County beekeeper, Christine Taylor who spoke about her book *Sixty Thousand Sisters Daughters of the Queen*, a well-written and beautifully photographed book. Although it is geared for a younger readership, this is one that many local beekeepers have in their library. If you have young beekeepers at home, or simply enjoy lovely photography about your favorite hobby, her book can be purchased on amazon.com.

In August, members of The Farm Bureau attended the ACBA meeting for presentations by the recipients of a scholarship they give to qualifying young beekeepers of Adams County. In this program, five student beekeepers are awarded everything they to begin their first year in beekeeping. Each awardee is assigned a veteran beekeeper of the club as a mentor. This is a wonderfully successful program that reflects a long-standing relationship between ACBA and The Farm Bureau. ACBA gave thanks to the FB for their continued support and active participation to promote interest in beekeeping.

The club is looking forward to September’s meeting where club members will share techniques for making wax candles and soap, and in October Clay Guthrie from Dadant will talk about controlling parasites and diseases in the apiary. For more information about Adams County Beekeepers Association you can find them on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association-214316711916893/

The buzz at **Highland County Beekeepers Association** in mid-summer included discussions on timely topics such as the control of wax moths and hive beetles, honey harvest tips, and entering hive products in the local Highland County and Brown County fairs. This is the best little organization for shy beekeepers to have their questions answered, or for those who simply prefer a more personal club atmosphere. Meetings are unstructured, open forums where most of the learning takes place by mingling with other members over coffee and deserts provided by the best beekeeping bakers in the area. For more information about Highland County Beekeepers Association visit them on the web at: http://www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/
Greene County Beekeepers continues to have a busy year with well-attended meetings. Events this summer included their annual Honey Harvest, along with their Annual Picnic and Auction.

From Crossroads Region:
Tri-County Beekeepers Association will be participating in the upcoming Heritage Day event in October.

Columbiana-Mahoning Beekeepers held their annual Potluck in August and had a successful year at the fair. The fair is one of the biggest fundraisers for the club.

Jefferson County Beekeepers Association kept their members busy this summer with meetings on Honey Extraction, Prepping for the Fair, and Soap Making.

Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers meetings included their annual Picnic and a Honey Extraction Demo.

Tuscarawas County Beekeepers had a busy summer, and is gearing up for a fun and tasty fall, with their Potluck, Pie night, and Annual Winter Banquet.

A Message from Nomination Chairperson - Mike Doseck

The beekeeping year is drawing close to an end and the new year is just around the corner. With the new year bringing in new opportunities and challenges so is OSBA offering opportunities and challenges to its members. This year we will be electing all four Executive Officers, three District Directors from Western Reserve, Crossroads, and Buckeye Hills, and all appointed Representatives from each OSBA District. This is an opportunity that we can all consider to help promote the needs and benefits of the beekeeping community.

The vacancies and positions that exist require no special education or talents other than the passion and desires that, as beekeepers, we already have. When I only had a couple of years in beekeeping, I was asked to serve as a Representative and I asked how can I help. I was to find out that listening and sharing opinions was the real need for becoming involved. After serving for several years, it is my experience that I have met some of the nicest and giving people in the beekeeping community. I have gained much more than I have given and the experience is one I would not give up for anything.

As Nomination Committee Chairman, I am asking those reading this to put aside any reservations and consider the opportunity being presented. Please send me a request for the nomination form at mdosohio9866@gmail.com and the form will be sent to you by email. I am also looking forward to hearing from you for names of people along with contact information, so that I might have a list of possible contacts to place on future ballots. Please confirm with those people that you think would make good candidates. It is our desire to keep OSBA heading in a direction that promotes a positive beekeeping agenda. Timely submittal of this form is important and the sooner I receive the forms the better.
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Beekeeping Lessons Gleaned from Hurricanes

Alex Zomchek

After several days into a Florida, post hurricane cleanup; I am freshly reminded of three of life’s unassailable lessons: (1) often, *timing is everything*, (2) *location, location, location*, and (3) forewarned is forearmed. And with fall beekeeping coincidentally winding down I could not help but note the similarities between the hurricanes and hurricane seasons with our bees and bee seasons. Let me elaborate.

At this very moment I am down in FL helping a daughter resettle (after moving here just four weeks ago only to witness her first, and record breaking, hurricane). I am also helping to knit back together a honey bee, queen, mating nuc yard that threatened to wipe out six years of genetic data.

After several days down here you begin to recognize what can best be described as hurricane fatigue on the faces of many. Some folks are still faced with rolling electrical black outs (no air conditioning in mid 90s heat), boil water zones (no showers going on two weeks), high gas prices, variable store shelf commodities, made visible by the substantial wind damage to houses, trees, and those ubiquitous road signs that litter the corridors into Florida.

Some have categorized these as “first world problems”. They are real problems when your arguably live in the first world.

Talking about the weather as a conversation starter has taken on a kind of mania ranging from relief, disbelief, and one ups-manship. Some have had it a lot easier than others – location and timing.

With a wide brush two camps seem to be forming: victims and survivors. Some are wearing a mask of hurricane exhaustion while others also seem to be renewed for having witnessed and survived the experience. The same can be said of beekeepers and this past bee season.

As there is an actual hurricane season (June – November); so too there is bee season (~April – September) of roughly the same duration. Various natural elements or ingredients have to come into play and align for a hurricane to form. So it goes for a “successful” bee season.

Luck of the draw – simple location and timing, played a huge roll in the hurricane devastation and ongoing recovery. And so it goes with beekeeping.

Where you are in the country, the state, or the county can make a big difference in colony production and health. Your hive’s exposure to nectar flows, to other bees with associated pests and diseases, or to migratory pests like small hive beetles (SHB) and wax moths came into play (e.g. currently southwest Ohio has a larger SHB problem than the rest of the state).

I suggest there a great many beekeeping lessons to be had by adopt the recent hurricanes as a working metaphor. Here are just a few that come to mind.

There is a six month hurricane season that runs from June to November. Our Ohio bee season runs approximately six months from April to September.

More accurate tracking and category strength measurement allows for more early preparedness limiting the loss of life and property damage. More accurate hive monitoring allows for the early detection and severity of pests and diseases loads limiting colony mortality and associated honey crop losses and bee replacement expenses.

Interestingly enough, both hurricane frequency and severity (this season has seen hurricanes Harvey, Katia, Irma, Jose and now Maria) and bee mortality is on the rise. There is little we can do in the short term to limit hurricane formation, but there is a lot we as beekeepers can do to limit hive death.

By taking early and aggressive hurricane preparedness and evacuation actions no doubt many lives were saved... Early detection and treatment of pests and their associated diseases can reduce Ohio’s near 60% year-over-year mortality to an estimated 9 – 12%. Unfortunately there will still be victims in both examples, but we beekeepers are in control of the major portions of hive mortality.

Hurricanes and hive loses are a foregone conclusion. Hive pests and their associated diseases are beekeepers hurricanes.

At this reading our Ohio bee season is all but over. But there will be another hurricane season next year. There will be another bee season next year. How you prepare for and react to changing hive pests/diseases by monitoring changing hive conditions together with treating timely and affectively will make all the difference in hive health

(Continued on page 33)
In order to get the longest life out of Varroa control products, rotation is essential. Mite resistance can develop in a short period of time and that is why it is key to rotate your control materials with products like Apistan®. Rotating on an annual or semi-annual basis with products that have different modes of action will help manage mite resistance. Start your rotation program with Apistan®.

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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 share with the newsletter.

Eleanor Spirka

Eleanor Gail Spirka, age 79, died August 5, 2017, at University Hospital, Cleveland, OH.

Born in Cleveland on May 21, 1938, Eleanor was a lifelong resident of Geauga County.

She was an EKG technician for St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland, and a Kitchen Aid for Ledgemont High School for six years.

She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Thompson, and a charter member of the Geauga County Beekeepers Association (1976), where she served as Secretary for over twenty years.

Eleanor kept bees for over forty years, and very actively promoted beekeeping at The Great Geauga County Fair where she was affectionately known as the “Bee Lady.”

She won many blue ribbons for her honey entries, but her real specialty was baked goods. Her numerous trophies gave testimony to her expertise. Eleanor was a truly nice lady and she will be sorely missed.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph, a daughter and son, sister, grandson, and three great-grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held on August 10th.

(Continued from page 31)

and production when next year’s pests-storm eventually hits.

Older Ohio “briars” often recall those handful of bee seasons, “that started, and never looked back”. Where seemingly all the elements came into alignment: weather, nectar flows, hive health, genetics, et.al. to produce booming colonies that filled every spare honey container and then some.

Hurricanes and beekeeping seasons – who would have thought they had so much in common? Interestingly enough, hurricanes are spawned off the sub-Saharan coast of Africa. Coincidentally one of beekeeping “modern” pests – the small hive beetle (SHB), originates from the sub-Saharan region in Africa.

This year we Ohioans have profited from two major rain events at the end of this summer’s dearth brought on by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. There are valuable real life and beekeeping lessons to be gleaned by observing and learning these connections!
Another beekeeping season is over.. or is it? I was giving a presentation to a beekeeping association about Winter Preparation. Part of the presentation discussed the fact that there is no “stand alone” season in beekeeping. Each one builds on the next. If you don’t have healthy bees coming out of winter, then you probably won’t have a strong enough colony to collect excess honey during the honey flow, and you won’t have enough healthy bees taking care of the next generation that will go into winter.

Just like successful bee associations, we all build on the success of the beginner classes that we teach, the well-attended club meetings, and public events.

Beekeeping and club success go hand-in-hand. Everyone needs to participate, from the new-bee to the more experienced beekeeper. Everyone has a talent they can bring to the club to make it better.

Everyone has a job in the hive. My first assignment at a club meeting was helping to hand out nametags and staff the refreshment table. Although I really couldn’t add much to the beekeeping conversation, I still felt like I was part of the club, since I was participating during the meeting. I also got to know most of the club members by chatting with them while handing out the nametags and working at the refreshment table.

As beekeepers, we are prepping our hives for the winter, even though we are only in September. As club members, we are getting ready for our final meetings before the end of the year. These meetings are just as important as the first meetings of the year. While carry-in dinners may not be everyone’s favorite meeting, they do allow us one last social activity before we too, batten down the hatches for the winter weather. A successful last meeting provides everyone fellowship that we will remember, and therefore look forward to in the coming year.

The OSBA Fall Conference, in Plain City, OH on November 4th, is another way to close up the hive for winter, get all the hiveware you will build during the year, and learn a few more techniques to apply to the coming year.

During 2018, OSBA will be developing a variety of committees to help our beekeeping community. Whether you are a new-bee or a more experienced beekeeper, consider volunteering for one of these committees. Everyone has a skill they can contribute to helping beekeepers across Ohio.

OSBA Affiliate Program – Helping Ohio Associations Become Stronger

OSBA Began the Affiliate Program in 2015. 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 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.

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.

Editor’s Corner: Terry Lieberman-Smith

OSBA Affiliate Program – Helping Ohio Associations Become Stronger
## 2017 Ohio State Beekeeper’s Association
### Officers and Contacts

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Ohio State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

Ohio State Beekeepers Association is a 501c3 non-profit organization supporting people who have an interest in honeybees and beekeeping. You do not need to be a beekeeper or live in Ohio to join OSBA. Membership includes ongoing activities of the association to promote honeybees and beekeeping, voting in annual elections, discounts on publications, and an annual subscription to Ohio Beekeeping.

For new memberships and renewals, send checks payable to OSBA with this completed form to:

Ohio State Beekeepers Association  
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: ________________________________________________________

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☐ 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

Ohio Beekeeping is the official publication of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions are included with membership in OSBA.

Send news about your bees and your experiences, as well as any corrections, letters, comments, photographs, story suggestions, interviews, and additional requests to:

Terry Lieberman Smith  
PO Box 24181  
Dayton, OH 45424

Or email: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com.