OSBA 4-H Partnership Program 2018

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association supports new young beekeepers through our 4H Partnership Program. We are pleased to announce the winners of the OSBA 2018 4-H Partnership Program. Listed below are the winners, their sponsoring association, and their mentors.

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

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

OSBA’s Executive Officers and Directors

During elections at the 2017 OSBA Fall Conference, members had the opportunity to vote for Executive Board and Regional Director candidates. This year is the last year that all 4 Executive Board positions will be up for election at the same time. For this election only, the Vice-President and Treasurer terms will be three years, so that the future Executive Board will have staggered terms to help provide continuity to the organization.

President: Terry Lieberman-Smith
Vice-President: Peggy Garnes
Treasurer: Michele Colopy
Secretary: Tim Arheit

OSBA welcomes our newly elected Regional Directors:

- Western Reserve: Allyson May
- Buckeye Hills: Don Crock
- Crossroads: Joe Heider

OSBA would like to thank outgoing board members, Annette Birt Clark, Joe Kovaleski, and Richard Manley for their work to help beekeepers in our state.
Humming along- Not Bumblebees, Honey Bees

Our bees are not Bumblebees or Mason Orchard Bees that are solitary in both their work and their social needs.

We beekeepers work with amazing hive-minded insects. We are constantly fascinated, frustrated, and impressed by their resilience, communication skills, ability to work for a common cause, and their overall focus on the task at hand. Our colonies work together to ensure the hive survives from day to day, week to year, year to year (hopefully).

We are enthralled by our bees’ sense or community cooperation and their understanding of working together for the greater good. I have worked with many beekeepers who also have that community spirit and that volunteer core.

Yet, many club leaders shared with me their concern that more of their club’s membership needs to step up and help out in order to ensure the club’s future. Worse, some members help out just long enough to line their wallets or establish themselves as “experts” and then leave the club.

Scientific studies show that pets reflect the personality of their owner and vice-versa. Therefore, clubs should be overflowing with volunteer-oriented members who want to help out and provide support for the next generation of beekeeper in Ohio.

Don’t be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and offer to help out - whether to bring refreshments, greet new beekeepers at the entrance to club meetings, or to help out on a committee. Your activities will reflect the activities of the insect who is near and dear to our heart, and you will be ensuring the health of your local hive.

Speaking of volunteering, OSBA has many projects, both on-going and short term. If you would be interested in helping out, please contact your OSBA Regional Director, Regional Representative, or any OSBA Executive Board member.

See you in the beeyard~~

Terry Lieberman-Smith
President, Ohio State Beekeepers
Connecting Beekeepers Across Ohio
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 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

HB 392 - Beekeeper Indemnity Bill

OSBA heard Ohio beekeepers requesting an indemnity bill providing protection for beekeepers, similar to the indemnity that West Virginia provides its beekeepers.

Your OSBA leadership has spent over 700 hours throughout the year advocating for this important protection for Ohio beekeepers. As of today, HB 392, the Ohio Beekeeper Indemnity Bill (https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-392) is still in committee. We continue to work tirelessly to find supporters for the bill, testify in front of the committee, and meet with interested parties.

While there are groups that testified against the bill, we still have a few more meetings, and at least 1 more hearing to help provide advocacy for this bill, before it comes out of committee and onto the floor. Once it reaches the floor, we will be sending out information about how you can help encourage our state leadership to vote "yes" for Ohio beekeepers.

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

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

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

New OSBA Life Members

The following beekeepers have shown their support of OSBA by becoming Life Member. Life Membership consists of a one-time payment to OSBA of $200.

Christine Barnett  
Susan Berger  
James Carter  
Lois Ford  
Mary Hazelton  
Corey Perry
The Save The Honey Bee License Plate - What’s on Your Car?

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

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

So What is an Apiary Diagnostic Kit?

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

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

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

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

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

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

The kit and manual 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 conferences. The manual, by itself, is available on-line for $24.99 (free shipping), or $20 at the OSBA table.

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

Traveling Speaker Program: The Second Season

As part of the Specialty Crop Block Grant, our goal was to provide up to 30 Traveling Speaker Presentations on the topic of Monitoring for Sustainability within a two year period. We will have completed that goal during the 1st quarter of 2018. The presentation surveys provided not only positive feedback, but also suggestions for other topics OSBA could cover during future Traveling Speaker Programs.

Your OSBA Board heard you and has agreed to sponsor a new 2018 Traveling Speaker Series. The topic will be “Sustainable Beekeeping Management using Nucs.” This program will cover the basics of what a nuc is, how and when to make a nuc and how to use it as part of a sustainable beekeeping program. Topics will include using nucs for swarm control, backup queens and insurance to hedge against winter hive loss.

OSBA is covering the majority of the cost for this program. There will be a nominal fee to reserve a Traveling Speaker: $35 for OSBA affiliates, and $50 for non-affiliates.

We will start accepting reservations for our Traveling Speakers starting in March. To schedule a speaker, please contact Terry Lieberman-Smith at osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com.

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. We have distributed over half of our inventory, so the rest of the kits are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Eligibility requirements for new Ohio beekeeper:

✓ Have taken a 2017 or 2018 beginner beekeeping class (if we have the class list from your instructor) or proof of class
✓ Proof of Apiary Registration
✓ Proof of Equipment Purchase
✓ Commitment to fill out short on-line monthly surveys throughout 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
Introducing OSBA 2017 Beekeeper of the Year - Jamie Walters

Enthusiastic, genuine interest, passion and dedication, community interest, volunteer, leader, professional, continually seeks new knowledge, sponge for information, modest, giving of time. These are just some of the adjectives in the numerous support letters nominating Jamie Walters for 2017 OSBA Beekeeper of the Year award.

Jamie’s enthusiasm and dedication to beekeeping helps bring him to new adventures. He was encouraged to teach a beginner beekeeping class in the Defiance area. His students decided that he should help start a club in the area. This lead to the formation of the Black Swamp Beekeepers Association, whose members have participated in hive painting contests, community outreach, and even marching in a local parade - all in the club’s first year!

Jamie doesn’t wait to be asked, many times he steps up to volunteer if he knows that his skills can be helpful to an activity.

Congratulations to Jamie Walters, OSBA 2017 Beekeeper of the Year!

A Great Big THANK YOU to our OSBA Fall Conference Volunteers

Louise Adkins       Eileen Hahn       Marc Smith
Dawn Arheit        Joe Heider       Jamie Walters
Tim Arheit         Brad Hibbard      Dee Walters
Tina Bobek         Troy Liebengood   Marishka Wile
Michele Colopy     Linda Miller      Dwight Wilson
David Crawford     Angel Mitchell    Jerry Wilson
Marie Crawford     Susan Nutter
Don Crock           Shaun Powers
Mike Doseck         Rod Pritchard
Sheila Doseck      Tom Rathbun
Jeff Gabric and family   Peggie Shaw
The Ohio State Fair continues to evolve into a showcase for all things beekeeping and a major outreach opportunity for the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, and its mission to promote beekeeping to every corner of the state.

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

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

The Ohio State Fair has embraced OSBA’s efforts to develop exhibits and programming to acquaint the visiting public with honey bees and their value in agriculture, the food chain and nature.

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

“Thank you all for your enthusiasm and your willingness to share your own experiences and insight,” said Bagley. “Our greatest reward is when visitors from previous years return to the pavilion so excited to tell us they took a beekeeping class and they’re now ‘one of us.’ We hear it every year and it’s a great moment.”

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

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

The OSBA pavilion opens at Ohio State Fair on July 29, 2018 and runs for eight days through Aug. 5. Planning is underway and clubs and members who wish to participate should contact Nina or any of the other committee members: Zale Maxwell, Tina Bobek, Marishka Wile, Dwight Wells, Louise Adkins and David Crawford.

If your club has not participated in the past, please contact a committee member or OSBA officer for more information.
Join OSBA Today—
OSBA works 24/7 for beekeepers. Your $20 membership (less than 6 cents per day) supports activities and projects that benefit our beekeeping community.

Support the Beekeepers Voice of Ohio

OSBA Fall Conference
November 3, 2018
Plain City, OH

Great Speakers
Breakout Sessions
Vendors
Contests
Auction Table
And more...
An educational and fun-filled day

Want to know who are special guest speakers will bee?
Here’s a hint:
M.S. and D.P
OSBA Strategic Planning Meeting for 2018

This year’s strategic planning meeting (SPM) took place on December 2 in Columbus Ohio. Your OSBA Executive Board, Officers and In-coming Officers spent the day working towards the common goal of meeting the needs of Ohio beekeepers and beekeeping associations.

After a brief review of 2017 activities and expectations, the group delved into choosing activities critical to the success of beekeeping in Ohio. During last year’s SPM, the board chose two projects to tackle during 2017. At this year’s SPM, the group branched out and chose 4 projects with completion deadlines before the end of the 1st quarter.

1. City Ordinance Packet
2. Speaker Resource List for Local Associations
3. Field Day Guide
4. Grant Presentation for Local Association Leaders

These guides and resources will be available through your OSBA Regional Directors and Regional Representatives.

Thank You to our OSBA 2017 Traveling Speaker Team

OSBA would like to thank the following beekeepers who ventured into new territory in 2017 as OSBA Traveling Speakers: Thank you for your dedication to educating beekeepers across Ohio. They reached over 1000 beekeepers as they traveled around the state providing the Monitoring for Sustainability presentation.

Christine Cain
Peggy Garnes
John Grafton
Bob Hooker
Joe Kovaleski
Jamie Walters
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### Apiary Inspection Summary for 2017

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**State Totals**: 8,517, 5,005, 23,393, 29, 66, 41, 4, 10,963, 4,010

- Percent with AFB: 0.12%
- Percent with EFB: 0.28%
- Percent with CB: 0.18%
- Percent with Nosema: 0.02%
- Percent with Varoa: 46.9%
- Percent with SHB: 17.1%

Apiary: any place where one or more colonies are kept
Colony: the hive, bees (dead or alive), combs and brood
AFB: American Foulbrood, *Paenibacillus larvae*
EFB: European Foulbrood, *Melissococcus pluton*
CB: Chalkbrood, *Ascosphaera apis*
NOS: Nosema, *Nosema apis*
VAR: Varroa Mite, *Varroa destructor* = *V. jacobsoni*
SHB: Small Hive Beetle, *Aethina tumida*
Managing Varroa mite infestations with Apistan® is as easy as inserting two strips in a brood box. Apistan® is a simple way to get the longest life out of your Varroa control program. 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. Starting your rotation program is easy with Apistan®.

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

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Spring Management Considerations

Spring is the most critical period of the beekeeping year. Management decisions made during spring buildup generally set the tone for the remainder of the season. Hopefully the following will aide in the decision making process.

The Fallacy of Zero Winter Loss

If pollination is your principal beekeeping endeavor, or if spring nuc sales are paramount, any notable degree of winter loss is of serious concern. On the other hand, honey producers actually benefit from a reasonable amount of winter loss. For example, entering the winter of 1999-2000 I was operating approximately 200 colonies for honey production. Apistan was still working well and most of the colonies were in excellent condition. It turned out to be a very mild winter with abundant flight time. As a result virtually all 200 colonies overwintered successfully, the vast majority in good to excellent condition! From my perspective this was the worst possible outcome.

For honey producers the main focus of spring management is to build as many colonies as possible into prime condition for the start of the main honey flow. This is achieved by removing excess bees and brood from the strongest colonies, and then using those resources to re-start deadouts (make splits) and boost less prosperous colonies. With little or no winter loss that becomes impossible. Why, because all of your equipment is already in use. Under that scenario the only realistic option is to pile on the supers and hope for the best. Better yet, pile on the supers and go on vacation for the next three or four weeks. That should help ease the angst from the massive swarming that’s bound to occur. And what about the honey crop, no worries there, the majority of any potential surplus flew away with those departing swarms!

Using the overwinter scenario described above, I wouldn’t have any problem with 35-40 percent winter loss? (Under normal conditions 15-25 percent winter loss would be ideal) In fact losses on that scale would be a real asset. Almost half of the operation would get requeened via the replacement splits. In return, the excess bees and brood used to makeup the splits would significantly reduce the swarming potential of the strongest overwintered colonies. Further equalization would even out the populations of the remaining colonies thereby creating an opportunity for a monster honey crop should Mother Nature decide to cooperate.

The Misuse of Screened Bottom Boards

Screened bottom boards came into vogue about fifteen years ago, give or take. Because my operating territory features an extended, cold, spring buildup period I decided it wasn’t worth the time and expense to make the change. (And for what it’s worth, I didn’t for one second buy into the idea that screened bottoms coupled with powder sugar dusting were the answer to Varroa!) Fast forward to the present, year-round bottom ventilation has become the current darling. Leave the screened bottom open year-round, your bees will surely benefit. That may have some validity in southern climes where nighttime spring temperatures rarely fall below fifty degrees. But that certainly isn’t the case in the temperate north where early spring temps routinely fall into the low thirties, or even the upper twenties. Consider this analogy. Starting on March 1st, would you open all of the doors and windows in your house and leave the furnace thermostat set at the normal setting until warm weather in late May or early June negated further use? Probably not! Then why in effect would you ask your bees to do the same thing? It takes 93-94 degrees to rear brood. Not even the strongest colonies are able to maintain that temperature in the lower brood box with a wide open entrance or open screened bottom board. As a result brood rearing is confined to the upper brood box. At the first sign of incoming nectar the broodnest becomes congested and swarm preparations are initiated. This problem is easily avoided. Keep the screened bottom closed until the main honey flow is underway. I question the need for a wide open bottom during the winter period, but that’s your choice. However, once brood rearing starts to ramp up in late February or early March close the screened bottom, and by all means leave the entrance reducer in place. Your bees will thank you for those actions!

If you don’t believe the negative effect cold has on early spring brood rearing repeat the experiment I did way back in the early 1980s, long before the advent of screened bottom boards. I selected roughly 100 colonies scattered over several different yards. The colonies (all housed in two hive bodies) were divided into two groups, very strong/excellent condition and good/above average condition. On April 20th I removed the entrance reducers on half the colonies in each group. At weekly intervals I checked the bottom brood box to see how far down brood rearing had progressed. The short answer is not very far. By the time the main honey flow started (May 28th) most of the very strong/excellent colonies were rearing brood in the back half of the five or six center frames in the lower box. The good/above average colonies were using the back third of the center frames. By comparison, similar strength colonies with entrance reducers in place were using all but lower front portion of the bottom box. (Two or three inches back from the entrance reducer) Had I been using open screened bottom boards I doubt there would have been any brood rearing in the lower boxes prior to late May or early June!
Queen Cages

Queen cages have changed considerably over the past hundred plus years. As evidence, peruse the pages of an older ABC-XYZ or Hive and the Honey Bee. Currently there are three types of cages in use. The traditional three-hole cage, the primary cage when I came on scene in the mid-seventies, is still commonplace. Two competitors, the California mini-cage and the JZ-BZ plastic cage appeared in the mid 1990s. All three cages are used in the package bee trade and for individual queen shipment, but that’s where the similarities end.

The three-hole cage is by far the largest of the three and the most cumbersome to use. The standard recommendation is to remove a frame and hang the cage, candy end up, between frames in the center of the broodnest. This results in a major abuse of the bee space. In response the bees will often fill the gap with new comb. When it comes time to remove the cage the additional comb will prevent the brood frames from being returned to their normal position. To complicate matters the new comb will be fastened haphazardly to the neighboring frames. Invariably the queen will be working on the new comb or on the face of one of the adjacent combs. So how do you remove the offending comb without injuring the queen? The easiest solution is to avoid the issue entirely. Instead of going through the frame removal process simply place the cage, screen down, centered over the opening between frames in the center of the broodnest. Use a deep rimmed inner cover or add a shim to provide the necessary accommodation space. Fear not, the bees will treat the queen exactly as they would if the cage was installed in the traditional manner.

A research article, Problems with Queen Banks appeared in the ABJ in early 1988. The article describes some of the disadvantages of storing multiple queens in queen banks. Namely, the queen cages large screen coverings allowed the workers to stick their tongues through the screen openings and injure the queen. In cages with larger openings or slots the workers were able to stick part of their head and mandibles through and bite the queen’s claws, tarsi, antenna, and wings. A total of 26 different types of injuries were detected. (The drawings on the first page illustrate the variety of injuries that can occur to the queen’s feet.) Needless to say, queens so damaged had much higher rates of supercedure

The California mini-cage, developed by Bob Koehnen in the early 1990s was designed to address this problem. The main obstacle was the development of a screen with openings large enough to allow the workers to feed the queen, yet small enough to prevent them from using their tongue or mandibles to damage the queen. Accordingly, a good portion of the credit went to the screen company that was willing experiment with different screen sizes until the problem was solved. For the doubters out there might I suggest you make a side-by-side comparison? Place a three-hole cage next to a California mini-cage. The difference in screen size between the two cages is obvious at first glance.

As the name implies, the California mini-cage is small enough to fit between the top bars negating the need to remove a frame for queen introduction purposes. Queen release is achieved via a removable candy tube. Cages shipped in battery boxes are corked, with candy tubes included. This gives you a choice, direct queen release, or candy release. If you receive queens in battery boxes, or routinely bank queens, this should be your cage of choice.

The JZ-BZ plastic cage is at the other end of the size spectrum. It’s small enough to fit easily between standard spaced top bars. If wider than normal spacing is employed (nine frames in a ten frame box) place the cage on its side on top of the frames and supply an accommodation space as described above. Regardless, the bee space abuse associated with the three-hole cage is avoided. The JZ-BZ cage also features a longer, larger diameter candy tube which serves to delay automatic queen release, probably a life saver for many a queen. The screen openings are similar in size to the screen on the mini-cage. The slot on the bottom of the cage is too large, but the chances of queen injury from that location appear remote. From a queen introduction standpoint this is a very satisfactory cage. However, there is one wrinkle; it’s not the best cage for shipping large numbers of queens via a battery box. In large battery boxes the cages are spaced too far apart. If the box is inadvertently exposed to cold temperatures the loose bees will form a cluster leaving the queens on the outer periphery unprotected. For that reason alone, I would demand California mini-cages for large queen orders. If your supplier doesn’t offer California mini-cages, I would find another queen source!

References:

3. www.koehnen.com/cmq
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

If you forget to start with the link, that’s okay. Just open a new browser window, go to the OSBA site and click on the AmazonSmile link, and it will take you to your current Amazon page so you can continue shopping!

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What is OSBA

OSBA is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote beekeeping in the state of Ohio. OSBA Board of Directors make 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, there are here to help you.

Regional Director
Dwight Wilson
Reg. Representative
Brad Hibbard

Regional Director
Dwight Wells
Reg. Representative
Mike Doseck

Regional Director
Alex Zomchek
Reg. Representative
To be Nominated

Regional Director
Tom Rathbun
Reg. Representative
Angel Mitchell

Regional Director
Allyson May
Reg. Representative
Edward Freel

Regional Director
Joe Heider
Reg. Representative
Rick Blessing

Regional Director
Don Crock
Reg. Representative
Kathi Hinckley-Vaughn

Regional Director
Marishka Wile
Reg. Representative
Chris Dresel

Regional Director
Jeff Gabric
Reg. Representative
To be Nominated

If you have not met your region’s Representative or Director at your club’s meeting, please invite them for a visit. Their contact information is available at:
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Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Dec 24 - Jan. 2

Nov. 1 - Feb. 28
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The EAS Conference began on Wednesday, with Short Course participants extending their learning time through Friday afternoon. There were keynote presentations that began the daily programs followed by multiple tracks of presentations continuing through the afternoon. Speakers included Tom Seeley, Maria Spivak, Michael Palmer, Jennifer Berry, popular author James Tew, the Hambleton and student award winners, Clarence Collison our 2007 Roger Morse Extension/regulatory award winner, Jay Evans, USDA, Beltsville, Past EAS President Tammy Horn and many more.

Many came to hear Morse Award Paul Kelly speaking on Buckfast bee breeding and queen rearing – why we keep bees on islands and Hambleton Award Ramesh Sagili, 3 Decades post Varroa: lessons learned and future of bees. Alex Zomcheck from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio received the Divelbiss Award. This award is presented to a person or couple who has over a period of years reached out to the non-beekeeping public to explain the value of honey bees in our lives. I was happy that an OSBA member/Regional Director of Miami Valley was given this award.

Of course shopping for any and all beekeeping items was to be filling any of your free time at the conference. So many vendors – so little time! I think we should have a day for just shopping.
Take Advantage of These Winter/Spring Educational Workshops

2018 Honey Bee Expo

The Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers’ Association, in conjunction with the West Virginia Extension Services, will present the 16th annual Honey Bee Expo.

This event will be held Saturday, January 27th, 2018, on the Campus of WVU Parkersburg, in Parkersburg, WV. Dr. Larry Connor with Wicwas Press will be the featured presenter as well as Parry Kietzman, who is the head of research and education of the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective. There will be workshops for all levels of beekeepers from beginners to advanced. Cost is $20.00 adult, $8.00 youth 12yrs. and younger, if pre-registered by January 12th. After that, cost will be $25.00 and $8.00 at the door. Lunch will be an additional cost but will only be available for those who are pre-registered. Doors open at 7:30am for registration and complimentary coffee and pastries. Check association website movba.org for updates, registration forms, vendor list, and details.

The Beekeepers of Indiana

They will hold their 51st Bee School in Indianapolis, Indiana on Saturday February 24, 2018, at Decatur Central High School, Indianapolis, Indiana 46221. Lectures, hands-on workshops and discussions will be held for beekeepers with any level of skill, experience or ability. Topics on introductory beekeeping tools and techniques, as well as learning opportunities for the more advanced beekeeper will be available. For more information visit their website:

http://www.indianabeekeeper.com/contact_us/indiana_bee_school_xvi

2018 Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper School

The SWOBA Beekeeper School at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland, Ohio is March 24, 2018. Registration opens January 15th. For more information, visit http://warren.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/southwestern-ohio-beekeeper-school

TCBA 2018 Spring Workshop

Tri-County Beekeepers Association announces their 2018 TCBA Annual Spring Beekeepers Workshop coming March 2-3, 2018. This 40th Annual Workshop will feature Dr. Jamie Ellis, Randy Oliver and more. Plan now to attend. Online registration is set to open January 15th. There will be a limit again this year of 1000 attendees so don’t delay.

Watch the website www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register for the opening of registration.

EAS 2018
August 13-17, 2018
Hampton Roads Convention Center
1610 Coliseum Dr, Hampton, VA
http://thehrcc.com/

Michigan Beekeepers Association

MBA will hold its Spring 2018 Conference on Friday March 10 and Saturday March 3 at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University. For more information, visit their website at:
Buzzing About OSBA

4-H
We have a partnership program to help promote our next generation of beekeepers.

Club Development & Affiliate Program
Need a club in your area? OSBA has a “How to Start a New Association Guide” Contact your OSBA Director or Rep Representative.

Beekeeper Education
Apiary Diagnostic Kit
Visit us on the web. Explore our electronic educational pages.

Community Awareness
“Save the Honey Bee” License plate will increase public awareness, and provide funds for further outreach.

Grant Funding
OSBA has created a grant programs to help encourage research and pollinator health and support underserved groups.

OSBA Educational Conference
NOVEMBER 3, 2018
Reserve the Date for the Fall Conference in Plain City.

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Self-paced 3 tiered education program. Get out of your comfort zone and learn new skills!

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Association Corner

From Marishka Wile - Ohio Valley:

Adams County Beekeepers  The Adams County Beekeepers Association is extremely proud that Farm Bureau Scholarship Program was a great success this year, and would like to thank The Farm Bureau for continuing to support the young beekeepers of Adams county. This year five young recipients received the scholarship. All recipients followed through with the requirements of the program. They did a great job caring for their very own bees. The program has worked so well in Adams County, that the Farm Bureau is presenting the program at their National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.
Adams County Beekeepers Association continues its mentorship program that helps both the adult and younger membership. Often, new members would like to handle bees, but don’t know where to start. These members are assigned a mentor who helps them through their first year, and often beyond.

In October, Lance Kaufman’s presentation on making, candles and skin care products was so popular that a small group convinced him to hold a soap making class. Mr. Kaufman was gracious enough to invite students to the Kaufman/Schmitz residence for a delightful evening of soap making, dinner and conversation. In November, David Mangus gave a wonderful demonstration on keeping small hives. This was followed by officer elections, and a pot luck dinner. ACBA will resume meeting at its regular time, 7:00pm the third Thursday of the month at the Bible Baptist Church in West Union. They are looking forward to 2018 and hope that it is even more successful than 2017 in adding new members, and getting people involved in our program. For more information visit: www.facebook.com/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association-214316711916893/

Highland County Beekeepers   The Highland County Beekeepers Association will continue its informal club meetings and camaraderie the third Tuesday of the month starting in February 2018. This club is the best kept secret of Ohio Valley. It is the perfect atmosphere for new beekeepers. Meetings are unstructured, open forums where most of the learning takes place by mingling with other members. Meetings are held at 7:00pm at For more information about Highland County Beekeepers Association visit them at: www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/.

Brown County Beekeepers: One of the highlights of the year for the Brown County Beekeepers is the county fair in Georgetown, Ohio, during the final week of September. The week long event allows us the opportunity to discuss with the fair goers the importance of bees and the difficulties they are experiencing in todays environment. The observation hive is always popular with both children and adults, with the kids challenging the adults to “find the queen”. Our guest speaker for October was Collen Penquite of the Southwest Ohio Girl Beekeepers. This is an informal group of women who get together to share their experience and knowledge with one another. They meet periodically throughout the year and have an educational program each spring. If you would like to learn more about this program that caters to women beekeepers, you can contact Collen at collenpenquite@yahoo.com.

The November meeting they reserve for food, fellowship and fun. This year they instituted a raffle similar to the one conducted at the OSBA Fall Conference. They solicited the membership to donate items to the raffle. There were bee related products, craft items , jams and a wide variety of products made by the membership. The raffle generated over $200.00.
On November 16, the Brown County Beekeepers addressed the next generation of beekeepers. A beekeeping program was presented to Cub Scout Pack 157 of Clermont County, Ohio. In addition to the Scouts, numerous parents and grandparents were in attendance curious about the amazing hobby of beekeeping. The young Scouts were very engaged and ask a lot of good questions. The handouts provided on "Fun Facts About Bees", were of particular interest to them.

The club was involved with a couple of unique programs this year. Our club has a group who volunteers their time and experience to remove bees who have established habitats where they are a nuisance. This years removals have involved a wide variety of structures, utility boxes, heavy equipment and trees. The bees and habitats are safety removed and relocated. These removals generate a lot of good publicity for our organization.

Another program this year was creating an apiary at the Sem Haven Retirement Community in Milford, Ohio. Activities Director, Amy Mullins, networked with our club to establish the hive and monitor it's progress throughout the year. They began the project by having an educational program on beekeeping with the residents. Amy shared pictures with the residents as the hive developed over the summer. They are currently putting together a detailed program for the residents on, “The First Year of a Hive”.

They will be starting off the new year with an educational program at the Clermont County Branch Library in Owensville, Ohio, on January 13, 2018, from 11:00 to 12:00 PM. An "Introduction to Beekeeping" will be the topic for those interested in what it takes to get started in beekeeping.

The club will have it's first meeting of the year on February 13, 2018, at Western Brown High School in Mt. Orab, Ohio at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Kevin Hale, of Hale's Honey, Wellington, Kentucky. His program will be, “Honey Bee Nutrition-What, When and How to Feed Bees”.

For more information about BCBA visit them at browncountybeekeepersassociation.org

Continued on page 26
From Mike Doseck - Top of Ohio:

Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association Bringing the year to an end doesn’t mean it’s time to relax and forget about the girls. We have been harvesting honey, feeding bees, wrapping hives and doing last treatments for mites. Educating and offering advice on year end activities to new beekeepers and old beekeepers alike will hopefully help our girls through the coming winter. The Club has found a source of fondant for members that has allowed members to purchase fondant for about 80 cents a pound. Cooping has been a great way to help lower costs.

The Club is still working with local land owners and organizations in establishing pollinator habitat. Plans are currently being made to create a plan drawing for submission and approval. Funding sources have been identified and we are now working with other organizations and groups to assist with this “community” project. It has been amazing the positive response received by the pollinator habitat project!

The election of officers took place on December 12 with the following outgoing and incoming officers: Mike Doseck remains Club President, Ron Stucke’s term ended and Allen Heindel will now be the Vice President, Mark Watercutter’s term ended and Joe Lammers will now be the Treasurer, and Brett Soucie, who filled out a partial term as Secretary, will have Jeana Fisher finishing the remaining one year of the term.

The Club has, again this year, donated books to St. Marys Community Library in appreciation for the use of the Community Room as a meeting place. The following books were presented; Following the Wild Bees by Thomas D. Seeley, 100 Plants to Feed the Bees by The Xerces Society, Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping by Dewey M. Caron with Lawrence John Connor, The Beautiful Bee Book by Sue Unstead & Illustrated by Gil Tomblin. The presentation was made by Ron Stucke (Vice President) and Morgan Paul (Library Director) received the books on behalf of the Library.

February 10th is the date for the Beginning Beekeeping Class, held in Celina at the Richardson-Bretz Memorial Building, located behind the Library. Follow the Facebook page for further information.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association had another busy quarter and ended the year with their carry-in dinner and auction. Club members used their Bee Bucks to bid on great items.

From Peggy Garnes – Western Reserve Region:

Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association has become one of the newest members of the OSBA Affiliate Program. The OSBA affiliate program affords local associations leadership more time to focus on the needs of their local beekeeping community, by providing financial sav-ings on club insurance, use of OSBA non-profit status, discounted software for club use, webhosting and more.

Bill Bruening, Trustee, William Riccio, Communications, Sharon Riccio, Secretary/Treasurer; Pete Burns, VP; Verity Bruening, Historian/Hospitality; Peggy Garnes, OSBA Western Reserve Regional Rep

From Jeff Gabric - Heart of Ohio:

The Heart of Ohio Beekeepers are patiently awaiting spring. Pollen entering the hives have been reported even in November and December. Until now the weather has been fairly mild and most report that bees are flying during the warm days without too many colony losses at this point. But with the cold weather upon us, weaker colonies are expected to parish. Most clubs are scheduling beginner beekeeping classes for the first few months of 2018 in time to help new beekeeper get their hives up and running.

East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association ECOBA Members participated in the Fairfield County fair at the beginning of October and competed in the honey judging contest. Bee School for Beginning beekeepers is right around the corner January 20, 2018, and runs for 9 am to 4 pm.

Knox County Beekeepers Association held their 1st annual year end banquet with 60 people attending. A very nice meal was served, and discussions were held about winter preparations. Knox Count Beekeepers sponsor 2 classes for beginner beekeepers and they will be held February 10, and 18, 2018. Check their web page for further details. www.knoxbees.com.

Central Ohio Beekeepers Association held their Fall Dinner November 15th at the Der Dutchman Restaurant, in Plain City. Bee school starts February 20 and has multiple classes. Check COBA’s web page for complete details.

Scioto Valley Beekeepers had a busy and creative 4th quarter. The over 70 beekeepers who attended the outdoor October meeting/hot dog roast learned about winter feeding from member Issac Barnes. The club now has their own window decal! The Circleville Pumpkin Show honey contest winners were: Louise Adkins, Marie Crawford, David Crawford, Barb Harwood, Shelby Keller and Matt Woida, all members of SVBA. The club is busy prep-(Continued on page 27)
ping for their popular beginner class, along with organizing next years speakers.

From Tom Rathbun - Erie Basin:

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers On December 4, the club had their annual Christmas party at a very nice venue this year.

SRVBA furnished the pulled pork sandwiches and sloppy joes, and each member was asked to bring a covered dish to share. Approx. 120 members attended. At the Party they had several door prizes - just about everybody received something.

The club has also applied to become an OSBA Affiliate and hope to have it up and running for 2018.

SRVBA does not have a general club meeting in January 2018 but they will have an officers meeting in January to plan the 12 months activity calendar.

The club officers for 2018 are: President. Troy Lieben-good, Vice President. Tom Rathbun, Treasurer. Linda Miller, Secretary. Angel Mitchell, Directors Evelyn Lepard, Carol Mahl, and Don Brown

Richland Area Beekeepers had many guest speakers this quarter including Dwight Wells spoke on winterizing, and Philip Smith gave a presentation on mead and Honey wine.

RABA was able to have a contact for a reasonable price Fondant for club members. The club has been supporting the ADK, by selling a few of the manuals

Richland Area Beekeepers do not typically have December and January meeting.

Crossroads Region:

Tri-County Beekeepers events this past quarter included their Monthly Bee Garden Work Day, along with guest speakers Jeannie Saum and Dan O’Hanlon.

Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers held their annual elections on November 13, 2017. The election results for the one-year terms were as follows: Don Crock, President; James Coyle, Vice President; Phil Dobeck, Secretary; and Marge Seaton, Treasurer. Mike Allen was elected as trustee for a 3-year term.

From Miami Valley Region:

Greene County Beekeepers Association: had a busy quarter that culminated in a well attended carry-in dinner and yearly elections. Plans are already in the works for an exciting and educational 2018.

Warren County Beekeepers end of year carry-in dinner, elections and gift exchange was a popular event with lots of gift swapping. OSBA 4-H Sponsorship winner, Ben Holliday, received his certificate of stating that he has completed the project and he is now the owner of the beekeeping equipment. Congratulations Ben!
From Dwight Wilson - Maumee Valley Region:

Black Swamp Beekeepers Association kept busy with promoting the club at the community Defiance Halloween Parade. It draws 15,000+ people from the area for this event. Along with a few of our members, we had the OSBA Hon E. Bear come visit the kids with us. This was a huge attraction, as the kids were all yelling “Honey Bear”.

We swarmed the OSBA Fall Conference with over 18 members that made the journey. Where our club President Jamie Walters did a presentation for 1st year beekeepers “Bee Prepared – Second Year” showing them the endless opportunities that they can do with a healthy overwintered hive(s). He was honored by being selected 2017 OSBA Beekeeper of the Year, by support letters from the community.

The Beginners Internship class of 52 members graduated at the November potluck with a “Certificate of Completion” and will be taking an exam to move on to the Advanced Internship class starting in February. Dwight Wilson, OSBA Maumee Valley Director, was special guest speaker. They had an abundance of delicious food, great conversation, and wishing everyone a great holiday break.

BSBA worked closely with the Defiance County Commissioners in creating a pollinator sanctuary and training area for the club. In November, the Commissioners honored BSBA with 1.8 acres to setup a 40’ x 40’ training apiary. This will have numerous planting zone for butterflies, Ohio pollinator habitat, Ohio pollinator oasis native seed mix from Ohio Prairie Nursery, clovers, beebalm, joe-pye-weed, as well as other Ohio native plants. They are partnering with Defiance County Soil & Water, City Department, Defiance County Master Gardeners, and others. The public will be welcome to stroll around the pollinator habitat and see butterflies, solitary bees, bumblebees, and hummingbirds. They will have presentations that beekeepers will be able to show the public through 4’ x 8’ viewing windows on how it looks inside a honeybee hive. For those more courageous, we will supply a veil for those who would like to get an up-close view.

In 2018, they will be offering a couple options:

1-Day Introduction to Beekeeping, a 6 hour glimpse of everything. on Saturday, February 3rd, 9 am – 3 pm, at the Defiance County Extension Office, 6879 Evansport Rd., Defiance, Ohio. The cost is $50.00, it includes the “Bee-Sentials Field Guide”, 1 year membership to OSBA, 1 year membership to BSBA, an opportunity to receive an OSBA Apiary Diagnostic Kit (ADK) having completed this class. Lunch can be purchased for an additional $9.00.

Beginner Internship Class, this will be a 9 month internship, on the 4th Saturday of each month (February - October),

(Continued on page 29)
(Continued from page 28)

from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm, at the Defiance County Extension Office, 6879 Evansport Rd., Defiance, Ohio. The cost is $125.00 individual / $200.00 couple, which includes the book “Bee-Sentials Field Guide”, 1 year membership to OSBA, and opportunity to receive OSBA Apiary Diagnostic Kit (ADK) for new beekeepers, having signed up for this class.

For those who pass the Advanced Internship exam, this will be a 10 month internship, the 2nd Saturday of each month (February / November), starting 8:30 am – 12:00 pm, at the Defiance County Extension Office, 6879 Evansport Rd., Defiance, Ohio. The cost is $125.00 individual / $200.00 couple, which includes the book “Increase Essentials 2nd Edition”.

Registration deadlines are Friday, January 19th by 11:59pm. Please check out our Facebook page at Black Swamp Beekeepers Association or our website blackswampbeekeepersassociation.bz that is under construction. We’ve been busy but looking forward to seeing everyone in the apiary next year!

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association had been busy getting our hives ready. Doing final inspections, varroa mite counts, treatments, and equalizing hives to get through the Winter.

Their last meeting was Tuesday, November 28th, where we had a honey tasting/presentation contest and demonstrated building sugar boards. This was our last meeting for the 2017 season. Our 2018 meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month, taking June – August and December off. They will start again on Tuesday, January 23rd, 7:30 pm, at Rocket Ridge Road, Pandora High School, Pandora, OH.

Their beginner beekeepers class is Saturday, February 18th from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Topics include; honeybee basics, races, package versus nucs, where to purchase bees, how to start a hive, new and used equipment, feeding, inspection, swarm control, and more. This is located at the Ohio State University at Lima, OH, Room 100 (Life & Physical Science Building), parking lot is on Biddle Drive. The cost is $40.00, it includes a 1 year membership to NWOBA and the beginning beekeepers handbook. See http://lima.osu.edu/campustour/maps.php for map of the Campus. To sign-up, please contact Dwight Wilson 419.722.1953, Tim Arheit 419.371.1742 or Jamie Walters 419.438.7335.

Maumee Valley Beekeepers September meeting demonstrated the making of candy and different candy boards for winter prep. Member Samantha Eitnier updated the membership of her mapping of bee yards. October’s meeting had 60 members participate in the annual honey tasting with 25 samples submitted. Election of officers was conducted with Roger Myers President, David Veith Vice President, Roberta Hobbs Treasurer and James Case Secretary. They also raffled off an OSBA ADK kit.

November’s meeting heard discussions on the aerial spraying that was performed this year on the crops near bee yards. Discuss the Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry (OSCR). Members who attended the OSBA Fall Conference recapped items and class that they attended. Their Beginners Beekeeping Class series started on January 17 and be a three part series with the two remaining dates of February 21 and March 21. Classes will be 2 hours each night starting at 7:00 at The Wildwood Environmental Academy.

Maumee Valley Beekeepers Association will not have a meeting in December. Meetings are held third Tuesday of the month at Wildwood Environmental Academy on Henthorne Drive in Maumee at 7:00.

BeeGee Bee Club’s October meeting had a honey tasting and discussed winterizing hives. Meetings are held third Thursday of the month at Woodland Mall in Bowling Green at the Fab Lab at 7:00.
Gear Up For This Spring!

Complete Boxes
Our complete deeps and mediums come fully assembled with the frames!
If you are in a rush, you can just pop these right on the hive!
*Available in 10 and 8 frame

New for 2018!
Budget woodenware now available in bulk!

Essentials Kit
Need just the basics to start your hive?
Check out our essentials kits!
It has everything you need to get your hive established, minus the bees of course!
We offer Beemax®, Lyson and wooden essentials kits.
Check out our website for more details!
Looking For a Beginner Beekeeping Class? We have the 411

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

**Ashtabula County Beekeepers**  
ACBA will hold their Beginner Class on March 10, 2018 at the OSU Extension Office located at 39 Wall Street Jefferson, OH 44047 from 10AM—2:30 PM with a break for a lunch. The cost is $15.00. The registration form is on the Ashtabula County Beekeepers Assoc. Facebook page, or contact Sharon at 440-576-8818 or sjriccio@yahoo.com.

**Black Swamp Beekeepers Association**  
The 1 day class, on February 3, at the Defiance County Extension Office at 6879 Evansport Rd, in Defiance, is an introduction to beekeeping. www.facebook.com/BlackSwamp-Beekeepers-Association-413662272313759/  
Beginning Beekeepers Internship Class runs from Feb - Nov teaching foundational knowledge for future success.

**Central Ohio Beekeepers**  
The 4 session Beginner Class has either Tuesday (starting on Feb 20) or Wednesday (starting on Feb 21) classes, for $70. Another option is the February 24th all day Beekeeping Class for $80. Visit www.centralohiobeekeepers.org.

**Coshocton County Beekeepers**  
CCBA’s Beginner Beekeeping Class is on Saturday February 17 from 9-4 p.m. at the Frontier Power Community Room. Registration is $50 per person and includes a hands-on field day at a Coshocton County bee yard. Visit www.coshoctonbeekkeepers.com.

**East Central Ohio Beekeepers**  
ECOA one-day bee schools run from 9-4 p.m. Jan 20, Jan 27, Feb 3 and Feb 10, each session is $75.00. Includes workbook, 1 year membership in ECOBA, a complimentary 1 year membership in OSBA, hands-on teaching beeyard, and more. For more info, contact: info@ecoba.org.

**Geauga County Beekeepers Association**  
The class sessions are February 10 from 9-2. For more information please contact: Dale Olson at 216.408.0446.

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association**  
The class sessions are February 7, 14, 21 and 28 at the Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmstead from 7-9 p.m. The $50 fee also includes a 1 year membership to GCBA and a complimentary membership to OSBA. Visit: www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com.

**Greater Grand Lakes Beekeepers Association**  
The GGLBA Beginning Beekeeping Class on February 10, from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. will be held in Celina at the Richardson-Bretz Memorial Building. The registration includes a book, and a 1 year membership to GGLBA, and a 1 year complimentary membership to OSBA. For more information, visit: www.facebook.com/events/241505729717590/.

**Greene County Beekeepers**  
This multi-week course covers everything from apiary location to seasonal management. Thursdays starting on February 1, 2018, from 7-8:30 p.m. $50 for Greene County Residents, $60 for non-residents. Students can participate in a bulk equipment order, and will receive 1 year membership to GCBA and OSBA. www.gcbeekeepers.com.

**Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers**  
There will be two sessions in the beginner’s beekeepers class. There will be a 5 hour classroom session on Saturday, February 17, from 9 am to 2 pm and a 2 hour class on-site session at Don Crock’s apiary. The classroom will also be held at OSU Extension Office in Caldwell, OH. The class is $35.00 includes book, membership to the Guernsey Noble Beekeepers Association, a 1 year complimentary membership to OSBA and other incidentals.

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

**Knox County Beekeepers**  
KCBA will again offer their annual Beginner Beekeeping Classes on Feb 10 (Beginner One), and Feb 24 (Beginner Two). Cost will be $45 per class. See www.knoxbees.com/ for details. Registration costs include lunch, book, and 1 year complimentary memberships to KCBA and OSBA.

**Lorain County Beekeepers**  
LCBA’s Beginner Class offers their class from 7-9 p.m. on March 2, 9, 16, 23 in Grafton, OH. Class fee of $50 include 1 year LCBA membership, Hands on Field day, and a Fall Wrap up Class. For more details visit www.loraincountybeekeepers.org.

(Continued on page 32)
Maumee Valley Beekeepers
The Maumee Valley Beekeepers will be holding a 3 part beginning beekeepers class on Jan 17, Feb 21 and March 21 starting at 7:00 pm held at the Wildwood Environmental Academy. The $50 registration include a book, 1 year membership to Maumee Valley Beekeepers, and 1 year membership to OSBA. Check their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Maumee-Valley-Bee-Keepers-Association-151553876221074/?fref=nf.

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

Saturday Sessions: Feb 10 and 17 At the Medina County Library from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evenings: Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13 and 20. These sessions will be held in the Medina Library from 6:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Miami Valley Beekeepers
This two session class is on February 3 and 10 and runs from 9-4 p.m. at Brukner Nature Center in Troy, OH. Registration is $60 and includes a 1 year membership to MVBA and OSBA. Contact Brukner Nature Center to register: www.bruknernaturecenter.com.

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association
The Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association will hold a Beginning Beekeepers Workshop from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday, February 17th, at the OSU Campus in the Science Building, in Lima, OH.

The cost is $40 and includes membership to The Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association, OSBA and a book. To register, call Dwight Wilson at 419-722-1953 or Tim Arheit at 419.371.1742, or Jamie Walters at 419.438.7335.

Portage County Beekeepers
Beginner Classes will be held at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna on February 8, 15, and 22 from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Contact Portage County Beekeepers at 330.338.6140.

Richland Area Beekeepers
RABA beginner classes will be held March 6, 20, and April 3, at 6:00PM, in the Richland County Longview Center, 1497 Longview Ave., Mansfield, OH. Fees include 'Beekeeping for Dummies', veil and hive tool, and a one-year membership to RABA, and a 1 year membership to OSBA.

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers
This two session class will be held April 7 and 14th. For more information visit: www.srvbeekeeping.com.

Scioto Valley Beekeepers
This three session class is held on Wednesday evenings, April 4,11 and 18 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cost of $60 includes the book, handouts, a one-year membership in Scioto Valley Beekeepers and a one-year membership in Ohio State Beekeepers Association. Registration is limited. For more information, email sciotovalleybeekeepers@yahoo.com, or David Crawford at 740.477.2393.

Stark County
The one day class is February 3 at the Stark Park Exploration Gateway. Class runs from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Registration includes class, book, light snacks and lunch. Visit www.starkbeekeepers.org for registration details.

Summit County
Class is held on 5 consecutive Wednesdays (Jan 10, 17, 24 and 31) from 7pm-9pm at the Summit County Fairgrounds. Class fee: $85 (individual) or $125 family (payable upon registration). Includes the class, a beginner’s beekeeping book, and a 1 year membership in the Summit County Beekeepers Association. www.summitbeekeepers.com.

Tri-State Beekeepers Association
This series of of six classes are presented from February 27 through April 10 from 6:00-8:45 pm at the West Virginia Community College in Wheeling, WVA. The program will follow a textbook and lecture format. Contact Steve Roth at sroth29201@comcast to register.

Trumbull County Beekeepers
The January 14 class runs from 1-5 p.m. Contact Ed Freel for more information: 330.240.2395.

Warren County Beekeepers Association
Warren County Beekeepers’ class is on Saturday, January 20 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Warren County Fairgrounds Building A, 665 N. Broadway St., Lebanon, OH.

Preregister by January 17. Cost is $20 per individual, or $25 per family and includes annual membership in WCBA and a complimentary membership to OSBA. For more information, or to reserve your spot, call 513.570.4246.
Bee Hive Thermal Industries, Breaking News, Saving Honey Bees Organically

An organic and noninvasive solution in targeting and killing Varroa Mite infestations, that are killing honey bees, was developed by the joined forces of, Bee Hive Thermal Industries (www.beehivethermalindustries.com) and OVEN Industries (www.ovenind.com), experts in temperature control.

Even if you’re not in the bee keeping business, commercially or as a Hobbyist, you may have heard that, “honey bees are in trouble”. There are a few main reasons that we could list in this dilemma and most experts will most likely agree that the Varroa Mite is near or at the top of that list. Bee Hive Thermal Industries designed this Thermal System utilizing an industrial grade heater blanket and electronic controls which are easily installed and removed from the hive. The end goal of the product is to raise the temperature of the hive to a programmed temperature, killing the mites & hive beetles without harming the bees based on studies done in Europe & US. To see the game changing product in action, click the link and view the video. https://youtu.be/D3I4G2Ws91o

In the fight against today’s Varroa Mites, beekeepers are often, if not always, resorting to pesticides as the solution. Bees have many other predators and hardships to endure, including weather related issues such as cold temperatures, moisture and diseases. The effect of the Mite on the overall colony is paralyzing to both general activity and honey production within the hive. This revolutionary product is showing positive results in killing and controlling mites and hive beetles, with only three applications annually. For show listings click here https://www.beehivethermalindustries.com/events/

Bee Hive Thermal Industries, located in beautiful Pageland South Carolina, is to be recognized as a global leader in the design, development and distribution of organically suitable products for the bee industry globally. The company strives daily to provide unique and safe solutions for bee keepers everywhere, providing them with high quality, value and reliability. Caring for our bees is very important to the mission of Bee Hive Thermal Industries. Click here to visit our website www.beehivethermalindustries.com

Ohio Sales Rep.
Joe Pristash
Bee Hive Thermal Industries
440-666-4374
joe@beehivethermalindustries.com

Lynn Williams President
lynn@beehivethermalindustries.com
803-504-9313

Advertisement
Underserved Grant - Another OSBA First!

Over the past few years, OSBA has received requests for assistance from groups such as rural schools, inner-city youth programs, and correctional facilities. They contact us through our website, Facebook page, and referrals by ODA. We always put them in touch with the closest beekeeping association, and gave them suggestions as to other educational on-line resources.

We wanted to do more.

Your OSBA Board has approved funding for an Underserved Grant. This grant will provide a library of five beekeeping books, a year’s subscription to both national beekeeping magazines, along with an OSBA DVD and an OSBA Apiary Diagnostic Kit (while supplies last).

We have enough funds to award up to five grants. Grants will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. If you know of an underserved group who needs educational materials to assist their beekeeping needs, please contact OSBA Treasurer Michele Colopy for details and the grant paperwork.

OSBA Embroidered Logowear Now Available

We heard your requests, and OSBA now has embroidered logo wear available off in a variety of styles and sizes for both men and women.

We have contracted with Digistitch Embroidery, located in Waynesville, Ohio, to provide a wide variety of OSBA embroidered logo wear.

Visit their website today to order your OSBA Logowear. https://www.companycasuals.com/OSBA/start.jsp
OSBA Sponsored Classes

Improve Your Social Skills

OSBA has partnered with OSU Extension, and is offering a class to learn about and improve your business or bee clubs’ Facebook page and social media presence. The class, called “DeviceReady”, will be held April 14th at the Wittmeyer Conference Center in Columbus, OH. This class should be of special interest to you, as it can help improve your communication with your customers, club members, and your community. This is a hands-on class, so bring your wifi enabled laptop or tablet.

Your will learn how to:

- To set up a Facebook page
- How to use Facebook
- How to post
- How to invite people to events, club meetings, field days
- How to post videos and photos
- How to set-up member only forums

Registration is now open, http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/classes/ and is limited to 30 people. The $35 registration fee includes class, handouts, and lunch.

Take the First Step to Become an OSBA Certified Honey Judge

On March 10th in Akron, OH, OSBA is offering the first of two classes designed to teach you the mechanics of judging. In this class, our instructors will teach you basics involved in judging the main categories at most fairs. Along with the Beginner and Advanced class, there is also field work for those people interested in becoming an OSBA Certified Honey Judge.

Our instructors have participated in all areas - from entering hive products to judging at local and state events.

This all day class includes Jim Thompson’s book “A Handbook for Honey Judges and Beekeepers Exhibiting Hive Products”, additional hand-outs, lunch, and hands-on judging. Class size is limited to 25 students.

If you have any questions regarding the class, please contact Peggy Garnes at: pgarnes001@gmail.com.

Registration fee of $75 per person. Registration opens January 15th.

http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/classes/
The Propolis Award - Who Will You Nominate in 2018?

Terry Lieberman-Smith

You know who they are, the people who always help out at club meetings and ensure that club members have the best experience possible at all events.

You can rely on them to make sure that nothing that falls between the cracks and that the club presents the best possible interaction with the general public.

They always have time to help out, especially last minute when all hands on deck are needed.

You never have to ask them twice, or even once, they are always there to help the club and club members.

They rarely if ever complain about all the time they spend but volunteering.

These are the people who are the propolis of the club. Danish or everything stays: to gather and at all club members have a great experience throughout the year. Rarely does anybody recognize these dedicated souls who devote much of their own time and effort towards the success of their club.

OSBA realizes that while most of these beekeepers do not look for the limelight, they still need to be recognized for their behind the scenes efforts that held the whole beekeeping community across the state.

I’ve been fortunate to work with and meet many of the behind the scenes volunteers these past few years. And the OSBA fall conference two of these people were recognized for the amazing amount of work and dedication that they have provided us over the past many years. Both Michele Colopy and Tim Arheit have volunteered an extraordinary amount of their time and expertise to help the beekeeping community here in Ohio.

While the OSBA Beekeeper of the Year is an amazing award to receive, I discussed creating The Propolis Award with both Tim and Michele, and they agreed that OSBA needed to recognize volunteers who are the propolis of the Ohio hive. Neither of them knew that they were going to receive this recognition. Each thought the other was going to be the recipient.

Both of them were surprised when each one received their own Propolis Award plaque. And if they even bigger surprise was when Peggy Garnes presented me with the plaque too!

Although I had been the recipient of the OSBA Beekeeper of the Year a few years back, I must say, to be recognized as part of the propolis that helps to keep the hive together is truly an amazing honor.

So, who will you be nominating from your club to receive the OSBA Propolis Award in 2018? Check out the third quarter newsletter for nomination forms.
Two groups of dedicated volunteers participated in insect surveys at the Fairborn Cement property that was participating in the OEEF Pollinator Habitat grant. To view the full report on this amazing transformation of this property, and hear the sounds of nature, please visit the following websites:

https://youtu.be/VZFYchhadik
http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=5604

### Pre-Planting vs. Post Pollinator Planting

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<th>2017 number of sightings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monarch</td>
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<td>Yellow swallow-tail</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>Praying Mantis</td>
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OSBA 2018 Outreach to Beginner Beekeeping Classes

The 2017 OSBA Outreach Program to those enrolled in New Beekeeper Schools sponsored by local associations reached the largest group of new-bees so far. We sent out over 1200 OSBA Care Packages.

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

We are offering this program again in 2018. Make sure that we have your association’s contact information! Send your information to:

Tim Arheit: webmaster@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
Or
Terry Lieberman-Smith: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com

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

OSBA Board Approves the OSBA 2018 Regional Representatives

Your OSBA Board has approved the following beekeepers as OSBA Regional Representatives:

Brad Hibbard
Rick Blessing
Angel Mitchell
Ed Freel
Mike Doseck
Kathi Hinckley-Vaughn
Chris Dresel

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

We still have two slots available: Miami Valley and Heart of Ohio. If you are interested in these positions with a 1 year appointment, please contact:

Terry Lieberman-Smith: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com or
Peggy Garnes: pgarnes001@gmail.com
Be One Step Ahead of Varroa This Year

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Swarms • Packages • Clean Splits

Package Bees are a the perfect time to treat for varroa mites. In a package, 100% of the mites are exposed so just one Oxalic Acid treatment will have maximum effect.

OXALIC ACID will have a 95% + EFFICACY on Broodless Colonies

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## Keeping in Touch…Find a Local Association

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<th>Website/Link</th>
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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.

Rosalma Hobe Born, 1927—Died 2017

Rosalma had been a beekeeper for over 50 years. She started as a helper to her husband, John Hobe. They maintained colonies in Richmond Hts, and Austinburg, OH. When he pass away in 1987, she became the head beekeeper.

At one time she managed 22 colonies by herself. She was 88 when she gave her last colony to her niece.

Rosalma was always willing to help new beekeepers with either her knowledge or a piece of equipment if they needed it. She had been a member of the Ashtabula County Beekeepers Assoc. for approximately 40 years. The members will miss her support and guidance. To put a smile on her face all you had to do was discuss honey bees.

OSBA Fall Conference 2018

Remember to reserve November 3, 2018 on your calendar for the OSBA Fall Conference at Tolles Career and Tech Center in Plain City, OH.

Over 600 enthusiastic beekeepers attended the fun-filled educational day that also included a record breaking number of busy vendors. This year’s conference will be a not-to-miss event.

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

I still say, who said winter was a slow time for beekeepers? Life does not slow down just because the cold weather hits. Since the OSBA Fall Conference, your OSBA hive has been a-buzz with activity:

- OSBA Strategic Planning Meeting for OSBA Board
- 4 Strategic Plan Teams working on projects
- Working with clubs to become affiliates
- Meeting with groups to promote HB 392
- OSBA Membership Campaign 2018
- Lining up details for the OSBA 2018 Fall Conference, November 3 at Tolles Career and Tech Center
- Coordinating the DeviceReady Class with OSU Extension
- Coordinating New Beekeeper Outreach Mailings
- Coordinating the Honey Judging Class
- On-line ADK and DVD sales
- Developing the Traveling Speaker 2 program

Certainly doesn’t sound like a slow time at all!

We are here to help support beekeepers and promote beekeeping in Ohio. 2018 will be another exhilarating year for beekeeping in Ohio….don’t miss out!

Show your support by renewing your membership to OSBA

OSBA Still Has Four Positions Available

OSBA has openings for a representative for each of the following groups: EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society), ABF (American Beekeeping Federation) and HAS (Heartland Apiculture Society).

Representatives are expected to participate in phone-in meetings, and provide updates to the OSBA Board about the meetings and activities of the group.

We also have two Regional Representative slots available: Miami Valley and Top of Ohio. Regional Representatives visit associations in their region, sharing information about OSBA and our programs. The Regional Representatives communicate back to OSBA with issues and concerns of beekeepers in their region. All board members participate in 6 phone-in meetings during the year, an annual Strategic Planning Meeting, and some volunteer time at OSBA tables in their area.

For more information about these positions, please contact Terry Lieberman-Smith: osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com or Peggy Garnes; pgarnes001@gmail.com
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Staff Appointments:

Terry Lieberman-Smith  Newsletter Editor  osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com
Jamie Walters         Project Expeditor

Gifts for a Lifetime of Learning

Make sure to keep the beekeeping buzzing along year round with these great gift ideas that you can purchase on-line or at the OSBA Booths at conferences - save $$ on shipping and handling:

- Membership (or renewal) to OSBA
- Beekeeping Training DVD set
- Oasis Pollinator Seeds

And remember: Gift certificates from our advertisers are appropriate year-round!
Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2018 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