H.B. 392
A Long Journey Still Moving Forward

The OSBA leadership have been working since Pollinator Week 2017 toward legislative protection for Ohio’s beekeepers from nuisance lawsuits due to a stinging incident, HB392, Apiary Owners Immunity Bill. Over 700 volunteer hours have been dedicated to this project.

After H.B. 392 moved out of the House Committee, it was waiting to be scheduled for a floor vote in 2018. Starting on March 12th, the House leaders received encouraging emails from almost 600 beekeepers seeking a floor vote of H.B. 392. Through the OSBA outreach to the Ohio House Leaders, a vote on the bill was promised within the next three sessions.

In the late afternoon of March 21, the Ohio House passed H.B. 392 with 86 votes in favor, and 7 nay votes. (https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-votes?id=GA132-HB-392 )

“The Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Inc. greatly appreciates Representative Stein and the co-sponsors of H.B. 392 for their work to help protect Ohio beekeepers from nuisance torts. The 150 year history of beekeeping in Ohio has influenced beekeeping world-wide through the contributions of Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth and A.I. Root. We are pleased the Ohio House is supportive of continuing the beekeeping industry in Ohio that pollinates our crops, and provides honey to Ohioans.” Terry Lieberman-Smith, President of Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Inc.

OSBA will continue to help strengthen Ohio’s beekeeping industry of over 7,800 beekeepers, not only for the pollination services provided by honey bees, but also for the positive economic impact on the small businesses that support Ohio beekeepers. This bill will help provide protection for individual beekeepers and educational destination venues in Ohio from legal actions due to unknown stinging insects. H.B. 392 would not apply to intentional tortious conduct or acts of omission due to gross negligence on the part of the beekeeper. The Best Management Practices set forth by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Inc. are a guide for beekeepers to be good neighbors, practice good animal husbandry, and as a guide for local ordinances. Every commodity group follows the BMPs for their specific crop or livestock.

Eleven of Ohio’s eighteen biggest cash crops rely on insect pollination to produce that crop generating more than $600M in pollination services by honey bees and native pollinators. Total Ohio honey value in 2016 was $4,550,000.

Educational destination venues in Ohio, such as Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Aullwood Audubon Center & Farm, Cleveland Botanical Gardens, and the grounds of the Ohio State House, all feature live honey bee hives on their public property. These on-site bee hives are educational, and support the plants, floral-escapes, gardens, and farmland at all of these tourist and community supported destination venues. These venues generate $10,723,393 in tourism activities across Ohio, and they will also benefit from H.B. 392.

H.B. 392 will provide comfort and security to the 4-H student beekeeper and their parents, your beekeeper neighbor, Ohio’s educational destination venues, and help to enforce local ordinances tied to responsible beekeeping practices.

OSBA’s advocacy efforts for this bill continue as we work to make this law. Onward to the Ohio Senate!

Humming along-

Terry Lieberman-Smith - OSBA President

The first quarter of the year has certainly raced by thanks to beginner classes, conferences, and projects. Now that Spring has arrived, we’re heading into a truly busy time in the apiary for both honey bees and beekeepers.

As you can tell from this newsletter, your OSBA board has been busy working to support Ohio beekeepers, associations, and the future of beekeeping in our state. Here is a quick overview of OSBA activities this quarter:

- Sent out over 1200 Welcome Packets to students in the Beginner Classes through local associations
- Coordinated the Traveling Speaker Presentation for 2018
- Evaluated and selected the Traveling Speakers
- Met with ODA to discuss how OSBA can work with them to help support Ohio beekeepers
- Coordinated the Honey Judging 1 class in Akron
- Met with interested parties regarding H.B. 392
- Distributed 4-H equipment to the OSBA Sponsorship winners
- Prepping for the OSBA Fall Conference 2018, as well as lining up speakers for 2019
- Conference tables at Tri-County Workshop and SWOBA Bee School
- Ad-Hoc presentation at Indiana Bee School

Needless to say, while you may not see what is going on in the OSBA hive, we are always bustling with activity that helps promote and support beekeeping in Ohio.
OSBA Affiliate Program—Helping Ohio Associations Become Stronger

The OSBA Affiliate Program offers a wide variety of benefits to local beekeeping associations. The initial cost to file the government paperwork was not insignificant. Your OSBA Board appropriated funding because OSBA believes in investing in the future growth of local Ohio beekeeper associations. We developed the OSBA Affiliate Program to help local associations reduce overhead costs so that your local club funds can be spent on beekeeper education and outreach. Our new program will offer:

- local association liability insurance at a reduced rate
- director and officer insurance at a reduced rate
- non-profit status under the OSBA 501c3 umbrella
- website hosting

Not only will your association save money, but donors to your association can receive a charitable deduction for donations. Additional benefits are already being explored for the future. Contact your OSBA Director or Representative for more details.

Troy Leibengood, President of Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association, receives their OSBA Affiliate membership from OSBA Treasurer, Michele Colopy. OSBA President, Terry Lieberman-Smith presents Mark Weaver, President of Greene County Beekeepers Association, the OSBA Affiliate membership certificate.

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.

Daria Arbogast  
Bradley Beach  
Tim Berkenstock  
Greg Blankenship  
James Carter  
Dale Eads  

Ed Freel  
Luanne Goodson  
Melissa Hirn  
Wayne Kean  
Kent Knapp  
Jerome Lumbrezer  

Jeff McCarty  
Angel Mitchell  
Melissa Muth  
Linda Nelson  
Jeff Ridner  
Charles Stickelman
## OSBA 2018 Budget

### Income

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>4-H program</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADK-OSBA revenue</td>
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<td>ADK Grant</td>
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<td>Seeds-Pollinator Habitat</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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### Expense

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<td>Promotion of OSBA</td>
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<td>Savings-lifetime mbrrs fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel and Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>80,400.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**How you can help protect pollinators:**

*Plant the OSBA Pollinator Oasis Seed mix on your own land.*

From the Ohio State Beekeepers Assn., “Beekeeping to Maximize Pollinator Health.”
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 2018 Traveling Speaker Series. The topic will be "Sustainable Beekeeping using Nucs." OSBA will cover 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.

The OSBA Traveling Speaker Team for 2018.

Tim Arheit
Peggy Garnes
Bob Hooker
Joe Kovaleski
Jamie Walters

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 (woodenware hives or honey bees)
- 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
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, Tweezers, 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.

Our 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 have set up a website page with links to treatments and any other beekeeping issues that arise during the beekeeping year.

We 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. 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
Funding Your Bee Club Projects with Grants: An Introduction
New OSBA Presentation Available to Local Association Leaders

Does your local bee club board want to expand their member activities? Do you want to collaborate with groups in your community for honey bees and beekeeping projects? Do you think your club is ready to fund club activities with grants? OSBA can answer these questions and more with our newest Traveling Speaker topic, Funding Your Bee Club Projects With Grants: an Introduction. To serve local associations and OSBA affiliates we are presenting this topic around the state. We encourage all of your Board members and your grant committee to attend. For a special group rate of just $35 per club (10 board member limit per club, please, due to space limitations at each site) your bee club can learn if you are ready to fund club activities with grants, where to find grants, if they should have a fiscal agent/sponsor, and more.

Register today for the next presentation:
Date: Sat., May 12, 2018
Deadline to register: May 5, 2018
Registration fee: $35 per beekeeping association
Time: 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Meeting site: Cuyahoga Falls Library, 2015 Third St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
Meeting room: Graefe Room

We will host this presentation in the Nelsonville area in July, and the Dayton area in September. Watch for OSBA emails and the OSBA Newsletter for updates on this presentation in your area.

Yes, I want to register my Board and grant committee to attend the Funding Your Bee Club Projects with Grants: an Introduction for Sat., May 12, 2018
http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/funding-your-bee-club-projects-with-grants/

For more information contact the OSBA Treasurer at treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

To schedule a presentation to just your local beekeeping association contact president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
OSBA Strategic Planning - Support for All Ohio Beekeepers

At this year’s OSBA Strategic Planning Meeting, your Board selected to complete four projects designed to help support various areas of beekeeping within Ohio.

The projects are:

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

The City Ordinance Packet is a helpful resource to those beekeepers facing zoning changes in their area. The packet contains sample bee-friendly zoning verbiage as guidelines for municipalities.

The Speaker Resource list is just that - a list of speakers, the topics they cover, honorariums, etc. that will help enhance your association’s meetings.

The Field Day Guide is a detailed outline how-to for those local associations that are interested in adding a new level of educational opportunities for their members. Nothing says "community" like a well-run Field Day.

OSBA has already provided the Grant Presentation to a group of local association leaders in Northwest Ohio. See page 7 for details on upcoming presentations. This presentation will provide insight into what local associations need to consider before applying for grants.

For more information about these projects, please contact your OSBA Officers.

OSBA Fall Conference - November 3, 2018
Tolles Career and Technical Center, Plain City, OH
Meet Some of our Speakers

Dr. David Tarpy
David Tarpy is a Professor of Entomology and the Extension Apiculturist at North Carolina State University. He graduated with a BS from Hobart College, an MS from Bucknell University, a Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis, and a postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell University. As Extension Apiculturist, he maintains an apiculture web site for the public and initiates numerous outreach programs. Specific research projects include understanding the effect of the polyandrous mating strategy of queen bees on colony disease resistance, determining the underlying factors of Colony Collapse Disorder, using molecular methods to determine the genetic structure within honey bee colonies, and then determining the regulation of reproduction at the individual and colony levels.

Dr. Marla Spivak
Dr. Marla Spivak is an entomologist, and Distinguished McKnight University Professor at the University of Minnesota. She graduated from Humboldt State University and from the University of Kansas. She is particularly well known for her work breeding lines of honey bees that detect and quickly remove diseased larvae and pupae, which is called hygienic behavior. She was instrumental in setting up the first bee Tech-Transfer Team in the United States, which continues to help honey bee queen breeders select for disease resistance traits. More recently, she has begun studying the role of resins, which bees collect and mix with wax to make propolis coatings on the inside of their hives, an example of honey bee social immunity. Her lab also studies the effect of the surrounding landscape on the health and nutrition of both honey bees and native bees.
As in past years, the 2018 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 myriad of entries. Get great hints on how to make your entries a prize winner. Enter your honey and win prizes and bragging rights.

This year features **two new** entry categories: Cut Comb Honey and Honey Bakery. See entry rules below:

**Rules:**

- Open to **OSBA Members** only.
- **Entries must be pre-registered.**
- There is no cost to enter the honey contest
- 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 the property of OSBA to be given away or disposed of.
- All decisions by the judges are final.

**Categories:**

- **Light Extracted Honey** (includes water white, extra white, white, extra light amber):
  Three (3) 1# glass Gamber or glass Queenline jars

- **Wax:**
  ½ to 1 pound entry

- **Honey Bakery:**
  Six (6) cookies (honey as the only sweetener), recipe attached (disposable plate in zip lock bag or covered in plastic wrap)

- **Cut Comb Honey:**
  Three (3) 12 oz. to 1 lb. cut comb sections in leak proof plastic box.

**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
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Zipper & Velcro to seal the veil seam

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Made with 100% Cotton

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BEST QUALITY | BEST SERVICE | BEST SUPPORT
I was really excited to learn that I had won the OSBA scholarship in early January. The next day, after receiving the congratulations letter, I watched the informational video about getting your boxes ready and what to do when you have your bees. A few weeks later I attended my first meeting of the Portage County Beekeeping Association. During February, I attended their beginning beekeeping classes each week.

These classes were very informative with many presentations and speakers who have had years of experience dealing with bees. I learned even more about bees, pest control, and parts of a hive. At the final meeting I received my equipment, benefits from the scholarship, from Allyson May of the Ohio State Beekeeping Association. That weekend I was able to fully build my hives and to sort through all the new equipment I received.

I was able to order two packages of bees and we plan to pick them up in mid to late April. I’m excited to be able to finally them and to set them up in my new hives. Lastly, I also look forward to sharing the information with the other 4H club members in my swine club.

I have included a photo of me with Allyson May when she came to the local beekeeping meeting to present my woodenware.

Hello, my name is Cloey Ward. I am 12 years old and a 6th grader at Riverdale Local school. I was chosen as a participant in the Ohio State Beekeepers Association scholarship program. I have been in 4H since I was 5 years old. When I was able to do projects, my first year, I chose flower gardening, fishing, and beekeeping for beginners. I won 1st place at the county judging and was invited to the Ohio State fair to show my beekeeping project. I unfortunately did not place at the state competition. My 2nd year doing projects in 4H, I chose beekeeping again as well as cooking for beginners. Again I won 1st place at the county judging for beekeeping, but I was not invited back to the state competition.

I believe that beekeeping is very important for all people. Bees are responsible for the pollination of many of the foods that we eat. The bee population has really decreased over the years and we need more beekeepers to help the bees survive. My dad is a beekeeper and has encouraged me to take and learn about honey bees.

I have a few hobbies which include beekeeping, fishing, gardening (not pulling weeds), reading and cooking.

This is a little bit about me and my life. I am very excited to be chosen to participate in your program and looking forward to learning more about beekeeping and building my experience from the scholarship grant.
Evelyn Smiddy - Warren County Beekeepers

My name is Evelyn Smiddy, and I am a tenth-grade home school student in Warren County.

I have participated in the 4-H program for going on 8 years and have completed many fun projects such as cooking, quilting, cake decorating, and You and Your Dog. For many years my dog, Georgia, and I have participated in the Clover Canine's club, Warren County's dog show, and the Ohio State dog show.

I am so thankful and excited to have been chosen for the scholarship provided by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. I am very excited to be able to raise bees and hopefully receive honey. So far, my dad has helped me construct my bee boxes and together we have already learned a lot. I believe, thanks to the OSBA, that I will have an amazing experience while learning about bees and how to take care of them.

Ty Collins

Ty Collins received his OSBA 4-H Sponsorship equipment at the Knox County Beekeepers Association Meeting. Ty receive 2 complete hives donated by Jeff Gabric, My Bee Supply in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

William Bacho

OSBA Regional Representative, Ed Freel presents the OSBA 4-H Sponsorship winner from Columbiana-Mahoning Beekeepers, William Bacho with his hive equipment.
WE’VE GOT YOU COVERED
WITH THE BEST SUPPLIES IN THE INDUSTRY

**PRO-SWEET**
- Easy to feed
- Helps stimulate bees
- Won’t crystallize or ferment

**PRO HEALTH**
- Aids overall bee health
- Stimulates bees to draw new foundation
- Promotes healthy, vigorous hives

**ProDFM**
- Direct fed microbials
- Improves colony health
- Impedes chalkbrood

**ULTRA BEE**
- Pollen Substitute
  - Available in dry or patty form
  - Highest protein content available
  - Improves brood production

**HIVE BODIES**
- Custom-built equipment
- Crafted with precise equipment

**FRAMES**
- Available unassembled
- Or assembled with Rite-Cell foundation

*Free shipping applies to most orders over $100 sent standard ground service within the lower 48 states. Prices are subject to change without notice.*
OSBA Sponsors Research at The Ohio State University

This year’s OSBA’s Research Grant was awarded to Reed Johnson at The Ohio State University for “Soybean or Clover: Pollen analysis to determine floral source of Ohio summer honey.”

Reed’s research team on this project include Luke Hearon and Chia-Hua Lin.

The team will update beekeepers on the project at the OSBA Fall Conference, and through an article in the OSBA newsletter.

Thanks to monies from the “Save the Honey Bee” License Plates and member donations, OSBA is able to continue supporting honey bee research in Ohio.

Educational Library- Resource for Underserved Groups

Does your local association work with rural schools, inner-city youth programs or correctional facilities?

Over the past year, OSBA has received requests for educational assistance from underserved groups. We always put them in touch with a near-by 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 Educational Kit. This grant will provide a library of five beekeeping books, a year’s subscription to American Bee Journal and Bee Culture, along with an OSBA DVD and an OSBA Apiary Diagnostic Kit (while supplies last).

We have enough funds to award up to 5 educational kits. Grants are distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

If you work with an underserved group that needs educational materials, contact OSBA Treasurer, Michele Colopy, for details and the grant application.
OSBA Sponsors 2018 Honey Judging Class 1

On March 10th, OSBA offered an updated Honey Judging class for those beekeepers interested in becoming a OSBA Certified Honey Judge.

We have received many requests to bring this class back into our educational rotation in order to ensure that Ohio has a contingent of qualified honey judges for local fairs and events.

Using feedback from the 2013 Honey Judging class, OSBA updated the syllabus by dividing the curriculum into two separate sessions, while adding a hands-on judging opportunity at the end of the first class.

Peggy Garnes, OSBA Vice-President helped to coordinate the redesigned class with the help of Instructors Jim Thompson, John Grafton, and Terry Lieberman-Smith.

Fourteen students eagerly listened as the team of instructors covered topics including: equipment, contest rules and regulations, responsibilities of a honey judge, liquid honey entries, creamed honey, and beeswax.

After a full day of lecture, the students were assigned a variety of honey entries to analyze and score. These entries had been previously evaluated during other competitions. After the class many of the students mentioned how much work was involved in being a Certified OSBA Honey Judge.

Those interested in moving ahead with the accreditation program have many tasks to accomplish before enrolling in the Honey Judging Class Part 2.

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15% off discount code 18OSBA15
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.

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(recipes that really use honey)

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5 T honey
2 t. espresso powder
8 oz. chocolate chips
1/2 t. vanilla extract

In a pan bring cream, honey, espresso powder and vanilla extract to a boil.

Turn off.

Add chocolate.

Let sit 1 minute.

Whisk to blend.

Pour into containers

Chill at least 4 hours

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What is OSBA

OSBA is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote beekeeping in the state of Ohio. OSBA has a Board of Directors made up of 23 voting members. Eighteen of these members represent each of the nine regions of Ohio. They are the people who represent the membership and your region in all votes taken by the OSBA board regarding the business of OSBA. Get to know your Representatives.

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Reg. Representative
Angel Mitchell

Regional Director
Dwight Wilson
Reg. Representative
Brad Hibbard

Regional Director
Dwight Wells
Reg. Representative
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Joe Heider
Reg. Representative
Rick Blessing

Regional Director
Don Crock
Reg. Representative
Kathi Hinckley-Vaughn

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:
Spring Management Manipulations

As stated previously, spring buildup is the most critical phase of the beekeeping year. In general, spring management decisions set the tone for the remainder of the season. Hopefully, the following suggestions will assist in that decision making process.

Nuc Boxes for Packages

Nuc boxes present a myriad of spring management opportunities, especially for those operating in cold northern climates. While it’s common practice to start splits in nuc boxes, very few beekeepers start their packages that way. The advantages that nuc boxes confer on splits apply equally to package startup. Namely, the heat retention capacity of the small cavity creates the perfect environment for maximum colony growth. With everything else being equal, packages started in nuc boxes will easily outperform their counterparts established in larger equipment. This is equally true when packages are started on foundation. When additional space is required, simply add a second five frame box of foundation above the original. Once you have ten frames drawn, it’s safe to transfer the colony into standard equipment, and supply additional room as necessary. Keep the screened bottom closed throughout the spring buildup period, and restrict the entrance down to one or two bees wide when the temperatures turn cold. Retain that heat!

Swarm Control via Brood Equalization

Equalization is the practice of removing excess brood and adult bees from the most prosperous colonies, and then using those resources to make up splits and boost weaker colonies. Colony equalization is without question the single most important aspect of swarm control. When you weaken a strong colony you naturally delay the onset of the swarming impulse. This coupled with timely supering to provide clustering and nectar storage space will dramatically reduce that colony’s swarming potential. As with many colony manipulations, timing is the key!

Six weeks prior to the start of the main honey flow the strongest colonies should be ready to equalize. At that point you want to leave the colony being equalized with the equivalent of four frames of brood and enough young adults to continue its normal buildup. A double hive body colony with four frames of brood, a good queen, and adequate stores should develop into a full strength colony by the start of the main flow six weeks later.

One week later, five weeks prior to the flow, leave the colony being equalized with five frames of brood and accompanying bees. Four weeks out, leave six frames of brood and accompanying adults. Six frames of brood along with the corresponding adult population equates to a full hive body, although it will never appear that tidy. With a little practice this simple formula will allow you to manipulate colonies with the assurance they will be at, or near, maximum strength in time for the start of the main honey flow.

The equalizing process requires two basic skills, the ability to estimate brood area, and the ability to recognize or spot the queen. Most strong colonies will have brood unevenly distributed over several frames divided between the brood boxes. Your job is to estimate, and remove the excess brood so the equalized colony is reduced to the desired size. (When equalizing, a frame of brood is defined as a deep frame, two thirds filled on both sides, with any brood stage from eggs to emerging adults.) Try to remove frames that contain the oldest brood along with the adhering bees. For every frame of brood you remove, shake in extra bees off an adjacent frame of brood. When dealing with exceptionally strong colonies shake bees off two additional frames for every frame of brood you remove. In effect, you’re trying to remove the excess adult bees that under normal circumstances would leave with the first (prime) swarm. Don’t worry; early in the season it’s almost impossible to remove too many adults from an overly strong colony! Colonies can be equalized any time prior to the start of the main honey flow. However, the closer the flow, the less brood you remove. If you remove too much brood too close to the flow, the colony will be unable to rebuild in time. Instead, place the emphasis on removing the excess adults. The brood you leave behind will emerge and replace the adults in a relatively short period of time.

What about the queen? There are times when locating the queen is an absolute must, however equalizing it isn’t one of those times. The trick is to make sure you don’t remove the queen while transferring brood and adult bees. (If you inadvertently remove the queen, an emergency supercedure will be initiated and that will severely reduce or eliminate that colony’s production potential) Brood rearing is paramount during the spring buildup period, so early in the season the queen is almost certain to be found in that portion of the broodnest that contains eggs and very young larvae. When examining frames, ignore the young brood; instead focus on the portion of the broodnest that contains the older brood. That should minimize the chances of coming into contact with the
queen. As the broodnest expands, the queen increases her range accordingly. This is where it can get a bit tricky. Carefully scan each frame you intend to remove or shake. If a frame lacks eggs or young larvae, chances are pretty good the queen isn’t there. The danger lies with frames that contain a mixture of older brood along with eggs or very young larvae. The queen could very well be on that frame, or in the immediate vicinity. Quickly scan each side of the frame, as well as the face of the next comb to be removed. If no queen, tilt the frame horizontally so that you’re looking across the comb surface. Queens and drones stand taller than workers. With a little practice they’re quite easy to spot. Of course your chances of spotting the queen will improve drastically if she is marked with a bright color, white or bright yellow are very easy to spot. In summary, colony equalization sounds complicated, but with a little practice it will quickly become just another colony manipulation.

How to Avoid Transferring the Queen When Making Splits

Locating queens is probably the most vexing problem beekeepers face. Factor in a lack of experience, and the problem is magnified a hundred fold. The following is a sure-fire method of not removing the queen from one or more donor colonies preparatory to making a split. You’ll need three pieces of equipment, a temporary holding box, (a five frame nuc box is ideal) a queen excluder, and an extra hive body.

Start by removing the frame(s) of brood that you’re going to use to start the split, and then gently shake most of the adhering bees back into the parent colony. (Shake off enough bees so that you’re sure the queen isn’t present.) Place the frame into the nuc box and repeat the process as needed. Once the startup brood frame(s) are set aside, remove two or three additional frames of partially capped brood and repeat the shake-off process. These frames are going to supply the additional nurse bees necessary to jump start the new split. All total, you should end up with four or five frames in the nuc box. Now place the queen excluder and extra hive body on top of the open donor colony. The final step is to transfer all of the shaken frames from the nuc box back into the empty hive body above the excluder. Close up the colony and find another activity for the next two or three hours. In your absence, young nurse bees will traverse the excluder and repopulate the frames above. The queen, unable to pass through the excluder will remain below in the broodnest.

Upon your return, transfer the selected startup brood frame(s) plus the adhering bees into their new abode. (The five frame nuc box is ideal.) The next step is to shake the nurse bees off the extra frames of partially capped brood. Once shaken, return these frames to the donor colony. If possible, replace the brood frame(s) with drawn comb; otherwise add frames of foundation to the outside of the donor colony’s uppermost brood box. The split is now ready to be moved to a temporary location at least a mile away. This will prevent any of the nurse bees from returning to the parent colony. Upon arrival, install either a caged queen or mature queen cell.

Adding Supers

Timely supering is every bit as important as equalization when it comes to swarm prevention. The addition of drawn comb above the broodnest has two distinct benefits. First, the supers provide storage space for any incoming nectar, anticipated or otherwise. Secondly, and just as important, they furnish a clustering or parking space for the legions of young adults that are emerging on a daily basis. Without supers, these bees, like the incoming nectar, will plug up the broodnest. And guess what, swarm preparations will be initiated! I recommend the use of a queen excluder, preferably an all metal excluder, when supering with drawn comb. The excluder greatly simplifies colony management and crop removal. The queen is confined to the intended broodnest area, and the supers remain supers. The first super should be added, above an excluder, the day the colony is equalized. When the bees cover five or more frames in the first super, add a second. Once the honey flow begins, add another super when the top super has bees actively working on six or seven frames.

What about foundation? Most new beekeepers lack drawn super comb so foundation is their only alternative. If that’s your situation, forget the excluder and place the foundation directly above the broodnest. In time the wax producers will move up and begin drawing comb. Once the bees are working on seven or eight frames, add another super. With any luck you should have a couple supers of drawn comb by seasons end. The following season you can use the baiting technique to expedite new comb production. Baiting is the practice of using drawn comb to entice the bees up into the foundation super. Generally two or three empty drawn combs are transferred from the outside of the uppermost super of drawn comb into the center of the foundation super. The displaced frames of foundation replace the drawn comb in the lower box. Once the storage bees begin filling the bait combs, it won’t be long before the wax producers start working the foundation. Continue the baiting procedure throughout the duration of the honey flow. Once you gain an adequate amount of drawn super comb, life in the bee yard becomes a whole lot easier.
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Bee City USA— Why Not Your City in 2018?

Two “cities” in Ohio 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/

Lights, Camera, Action…..4-H Video and OSBA Board member

Earlier this year, Mike Doseck, OSBA Regional Representative and OSBA 4-H Committee member, was contacted by Jane Wright, 4-H Extension Association-Curriculum Manager. Jane wanted to develop a short video, hosted on the 4-H Facebook page, to promote 4-H beekeeping projects. During the video Mike interviewed Kayla Lennartz, OSBA 4-H Sponsorship Winner 2017, and James Barnhart, the 2017 4-H Clock Award Winner. Mike, one of the OSBA sponsored 4-H Judges at the Ohio State Fair, was familiar with the winners and was the perfect candidate to interview.

Mike worked with Randall Westfall, President of Tri-County Beekeepers, to coordinate the interview during the Tri-County Workshop on March 3rd. Although the interview process took only a few hours, Mike spent much of the morning working with the film crew on room set-up and logistics.

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
Make an Inexpensive Bee Vac

I like to do projects that save me money and work just fine for the honey bee business.

I remove swarms and cut-outs and needed something light-weight when I am on a ladder or just need something easy to carry. I did my research and found that most bee vacs were out of my price range so I put my thinking cap on and made my own. It took me about 1 hour to do and very low cost.

I headed down to the local big box store and bought two 5 gallon buckets with lids. Top mounting vac that fit on the bucket. 2-6ft 1 ½ vacuum hoses, 1inch PVC pipe 2ft long

Purchase four 1-inch couplings and one cap and two paint bucket hooks. I use these to hang the bee vac on the ladder rungs when up in the air (See picture below of all the parts and how I hung it on the ladder)

In the lid drill two 1-inch holes so the 1-inch PVC pipe goes through (cut a 1inch long piece and place a coupling on bottom of lid and stick the pipe through the hole and place the other coupling so that it is tight (I do not glue them) repeat this process you will need two of these on the collection bucket place on both sides of lid (to make it a little sturdier I placed 1inch by 3 inch board on bottom of lid and screwed it to the top ) (See Picture 2)

With the extra PVC pipe drill many holes in it with a ¼ in drill bit ( I just laid the pipe down and drilled it top and bottom at one time a big time saver) now cut the pipe about 10” long and put the cap on the bottom put it through the lid with couplings top and bottom. Attach the hoses. They should match up, but if they are a bit loose, use some foam tape on the hose to make a tight fit.

Now that everything is done, place the vac hose on your collection bucket to the vac bucket, and the other hose as your suction hose and there you go an inexpensive bee vac . (See picture 3)

If you find that there is too much suction on the collection bucket drill a 1 ½ hole on top of lid and put tape over the hole to control how much suction, you need. You will know that it’s too much when you have heads and abdomen instead of whole bees

Total price was about $50-70. Depends on where to buy your supplies

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

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Association Corner

From Marishka Wile - Ohio Valley:

Highland County Beekeepers began meeting in February and will continue to hold its meetings the third Tuesday of the month at 119 Governor Foraker Place in Hillsboro. This is a small club where newcomers are treated as old friends, and lively conversation is enjoyed over coffee and home-baked goods. At the first meeting of the year, the club membership discussed timely concerns such as late winter honeybee nutrition. Meetings are unstructured, open forums where most of the learning takes place by mingling with other members. Meetings are held at 7:00pm. For more information about Highland County Beekeepers Association visit them on the web at: http://www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/

Brown County Beekeepers: At our first meeting of the year on February 13, Kevin Hale of Hale’s Honey, Wellington, Kentucky, gave a great program on “Bee Nutrition” to the 57 club members present. Other speakers this year will include Emily Archibald, Dr. Gene Kritsky, Dwight Wells, and Jim Coss.

The Brown County Beekeepers have been asked to be a part of educational programs in our region. On March 5, 2018, we will be a part of “Farm and Family Night” to be held at the Maysville Community and Technical College in Maysville, Kentucky. A wide variety of topics are cover regarding farm life, including beekeeping. Our programs will be, “An Introduction to Beekeeping” and “Seasonal Management of Beekeeping”.

On March 8, 2018 the club will be providing an educational program to the Buffalo Trace Beekeepers of Mason County, Kentucky. The program that evening will be, “Beekeepers Task in the Month of April”. All the tasks required of a beekeeper in April warrant a program of their own.

From Jeff Gabric - Heart of Ohio:

East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association as always, had some great speaker this winter. Joe Latshaw talked about winter feeding, Joe Smith from the Ohio Farm Bureau and Dawn Combs also gave presentations. Jim Tew will be speaking in April about Raising Your Own Queens. ECOBA bee yard meeting starts May 4th.

Knox County Beekeepers Association held their annual Beginners Beekeeping Classes in February and initiated 95 new beekeepers. Bob Hooker gave a timely presentation on swarm control at their first meeting in March. Tyler Collins was presented with 2 scholarships at Mondays meeting. Tyler not only won one of OSBA scholarship but also was awarded 2 packages of bees from KCBA. Congratulation Tyler. Their next meeting will be April 16th.

Morrow County Beekeepers Association held their Beginners Class with a new format that was well received. They welcome new members from their area.

Central Ohio Beekeepers Association March 21st meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory included a pot luck. COBA held their Beginner Classes in February to a full house. COBA is seeking applications for their Youth Scholarship. Please join them April 18th for their next regular meeting.

Scioto Valley Beekeepers Association is starting their Beginner Class on April 4th in the Circleville fire station. Check their web site for class details. Their next regular meeting is April 12th.
Association Corner

From Tom Rathbun - Erie Basin:

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers is very excited to announce as of February 2018 they have become an 501c3 affiliate with OSBA. They would like to give a big thank you to Michele Colopy, treasure of OSBA for her help with this adventure.

Richland Area Beekeepers hosted their 2018 Basic Beekeeping Class in March and April. Classes covered identification and use of Beekeeping equipment, tools and technology of Beekeeping, Honey Bee biology, pest and diseases of Honey Bees.

Bowling Green Beekeepers Association is new and in the making, but the club has great ideas and will be a fast growing club. Mike Horst, Bee Inspector for Wood County gave a update on theft of an area beehive. The club is also hosting a Beginners Beekeeping Class with a Black Swamp Beekeepers for 2018. They hope to have a field day in June.

Crossroads Region: Joe Heider and Rick Blessing

Tri-County Beekeepers wishes to thank OSBA and Stark County Beekeepers Association (SCBA) for the assistance given toward the 40th Annual TCBA Spring Beekeepers Workshop. A big thank you to the speakers for this years’ workshop. A huge thank you to all the current and future beekeepers who made the day a huge success. The planning has already started for March 1-2, 2019 (41st Annual TCBA Spring Beekeepers Workshop).

TCBA has their meetings the last Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be March 28th with guest speaker Jeff Gabric speaking on “Beekeeping in Cuba and Latvia”. For the April 25th meeting our guest speaker will be Jamie Walters speaking on “Spring Build Up and Swarm Management”. For our May 30th meeting the guest speaker will be Nina Bagley speaking on “Feeding During the Dearth”. We start our meetings at 7pm with a guest speaker followed by a snack. With a business meeting to end the evening. Our meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend.

Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers teamed up with OSU Extension to present a Beginning Beekeepers class on February 17th, 2018. The 5-hour class had 23 of students with 3 of them under 16 years of age. Later in early April the class will continue with a 2-hour on-site Apiary Inspection. The class was taught by Don Crock, President of the Guernsey Noble Beekeepers and Phil Dobeck, Secretary of the Guernsey Noble Beekeepers.

Stark County is prepping for their April Field Day, setting up a mentoring program, and finished up another successful Beginner Beekeeping Class!

Buckeye Hills - Don Crock and Kathi Hinckley-Vaughn

Tri-State Beekeepers Association serves beekeepers in WV, PA, and OH. Their annual novice class taught by veteran inspector John Grafton, and Master Beekeeper and club president Steve Roth attracted 23 new beekeepers this year 9 of whom were from OH.

The club has also partnered with the state prison in Belmont County to hold a beekeeping class. Fifty inmates are participating in the classes and will install 10 hives at the prison this spring. Tri State members are teaching the classes and will mentor the inmates.

The club meets monthly starting in February. This year’s first speaker was WV State Apiarist, Wade Stiltner talked about small hive beetles. In March, the club held a day-long seminar for members featuring Dr. Perry Kitzman speaking on honey bee biology and hive communication and Master Beekeeper Mark Lilly speaking on management of pests, parasites, and diseases. On all fronts the club continues to promote beekeeping and foster an appreciation of the honey bee in their local communities.

Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Visit www.movba.org for more information.

Athens County Area Beekeepers Association meeting the third Thursday of each month. Meeting place is the OSU Extension Office located at 280 West Union Street, Athens, Ohio above the County Health Department. Meetings start at 7PM. Congratulations to Judith Winner, recently elected President of ACABA.
From Dwight Wilson - Maumee Valley Region:

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association has been working with club members on what to be ready for this season. Abby Levitt, PhD, from Findlay College spoke about new research in Deformed Wing Virus. Jamie Walters presented 2nd year beekeepers and all of the possibilities with overwintered hives and how to inspect dead-outs. Jeannie Saum from BeePothecary spoke about hive products, their uses, and health benefits.

NWOBABA Beginner Beekeeping Class on February 24 was well attended and the club and welcome all of the new beekeepers to attend meetings.

Fifteen honey warmers were built by interested club members in mid-January.

Meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at Pandora-Gilboa High School at 7:00 p.m.

Maumee Valley Beekeepers returned from the holiday break to receive the announcement of the officers for 2018. MVBA will have their beekeeping classes on Wednesday nights for three months. At the January meeting, they discussed the winter dead-outs and what to do with a dead-out and emergency feeding for surviving hives. Also to perform an alcohol wash on samples from a dead out for a Varroa mite count. Members were showing how member Dave Veith cleans his wax to be able to sell. Announcements included the Seed Exchange that will be on February 24, the Summer field day schedule for June 9th, that volunteers will be needed for the booth at the Lucas County Fair that will be held July 10-16.

In February, Amy Stone, OSU Extension Educator, was the guest speaker. She spoke about planting and maintaining, bee friendly, trees and shrubs. Items from Amy’s presentation included bloom timing, trees to consider planting, root flare, depth of planting, burlap test to see if the burlap on your tree is natural burlap, use of water bags for new trees, soil compaction, and discussed growing days.

A couple of internet sites were listed to aid beekeepers: isa-arbor.com/education and The Ohio State University fact sheet page

Members were reminded of the seed swap held the Sunday following the club meeting. Donation was voted on and approved in the amount of $500 to Randy Oliver for mite research. Queen rearing class will be held on May 19th.

Meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at the Wildwood Environmental Academy in Maumee at 7:00pm.

Bowling Green Bees started the new year with discussion on winter activities for a beekeeper. Items included: attending area beekeeping classes, making salve and lotions, work wax, order bees for the upcoming year, order equipment, inspect equipment, clean any dead outs, prep for emergency feeding, and join a bee club.

Chapter Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at the Big Fab Lab at the Woodland Mall in Bowling Green at 7:00 pm.

Black Swamp Beekeepers is growing by leaps and bounds.

BSBA had a Farm Day event at Defiance Northtowne Mall, with Hon. E. Bear making an appearance with over 100 kids visiting the booth, as well as tons of interested new-bees wanting to know about bees.

The Beginning Beekeepers 1 day event had over 75 students that received 6 hours of training & demonstrations, along with a 1 year free membership to OSBA. Larry Connors book, opportunity to receive an ADK kit, handouts, flyers, and promotional items from OSBA and BSBA.

The 2017 Beginning Internship Beekeepers took an exam (80% or better) to move onto an 2018 Advanced Internship Beekeepers Class where they will learn to do rotating hive bodies, checker boarding, splits, queen rearing (OTS, Doolittle), cut comb production, creamed honey, nuc building, and their goal is sustainable beekeeping.

We have started another Beginning Internship Beekeepers Class for 2018 with 42 students that came from the 1 day Introduction Class and 4-H kids. Their main goal is learning disease, pests, alcohol wash and mite control, hive inspection, hive manipulation, and getting the hives through the Winter.

BSBA will be breaking ground for our 2.6 acre Pollinator Sanctuary & Training Facility on May 11th. This will have a 40’ x 40’ vinyl fenced area for hives & hands-on training for our interns. We will be planting Ohio pollinator seed mix throughout the remaining 2.56 acres. A huge “Thank You” to the membership and officers that sold sponsorship’s for fence sections. We are still selling hive sponsorship for $65.00 each that will have an engraved tag to show our appreciation.

Jamie Walters received the Ohio House of Representatives, H.R. No. 342 Resolution 2017 Beekeeper of the Year.

Thank you to all of the members for all of the hard work you have put into this association, it’s greatly appreciated.
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From Allyson May and Ed Freel – Western Reserve Region:

Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association over 87 new-bees attended the ACBA Beginner Class in March. ACBA meetings are held on Saturday’s at the Ashtabula County Extension Office in Jefferson, Ohio. Their meetings usually include a potluck from 12-1 pm and then the general meeting. Their next meeting is April 21st and will be an open discussion about “Getting Ready for Spring.” They will also have their Annual Auction. Peggy Garnes, Vice President of OSBA made a recent visit to the club meeting to present the club their second year certificate as an affiliate of OSBA. Visit them on Facebook for upcoming club and event information.

Summit County Beekeepers held their beginning beekeeping classes in January and welcomed 50 new beekeepers into their club. They have an educational and fun filled beekeeping season planned for their members in 2018! Their training apiary at Abundant Life Farm will be offering many workshops that will take the beekeeper on a journey from spring build up to hive inspections, varroa monitoring and treatment all the way to winterizing their hives.

They also have a wonderful opportunity at The University of Akron Field Station located in the Bath Nature Preserve. The University of Akron has graciously offered them the use of their amazing field station and adjoining fully enclosed Regal Be-gal Pavilion, both are free of charge for SCBA! They have plans for many classes and workshops at the field station and pavilion. They are particularly excited about using the microscopes at the field station for an advanced honeybee biology workshop! They also have plans for other workshops including mead and wine making, lip balm and creamed honey to name a few.

Along with their annual field day to be held at Abundant Life Farm this year, they also have a field trip planned to an apiary and honey house in Mansfield Ohio, followed by a lunch at the Buckeye Chapter of Gold Prospectors Association of America pavilion in Bellville Ohio. They have an array of excellent guest speakers lined up for this year including Kim Flottum from Bee Culture Magazine.

Their next club meeting is April 26th at the Summit County Fairgrounds. Peggy Garnes will be speaking on “Splitting Hives”. You can visit their website for further club and event information.

The Geauga County Beekeepers Association has approximately 70 members who attend the regular meetings. Our mission is to enlighten the public about the benefits of bee keeping; to keep members updated on information such as diseases, equipment and bee keeping events; and to support each other by sharing our personal bee keeping experiences as well as helpful hints and guidance. Annual Membership dues are only $20.00 per Family.

The following events are scheduled with our group and are open to the public:
April 12, 2018: New Beekeepers Class taught by Dale Olson at Kenston Local Schools
May 19, 2018 8AM: Field Day held at the Case Western Reserve University Farm
Field Day is our annual educational event for members. Club members attendance fee is included with Club Membership (another good reason to join the Geauga County Beekeepers) Various beekeeping activities presented, many with hands-on demonstrations. Bee Package installs, Queen identification, Splits, etc. Discussion topics may include, Disease ID, treatment, etc. Lunch and refreshments are provided along with many door prizes donated by fellow members and or sponsors. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about beekeeping or how to maintain your hives.

General meetings are held at the Kent State University Geauga Campus Located at: 14111 Clairdon, Troy Rd. Burton, Ohio which is located just North of the Burton Square next to the Fair Grounds.

Lake County Beekeepers are a new association along the shores of Lake Erie. The club started last year and holds it meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at Lake Farm Park in Kirtland, Ohio. They are having a Beginner Beekeeping Class on Saturday April 7th from 12-4
pm at Lake Farm Park. The class is free but you will have to pay park admission: $8/adult, $7/seniors & $6 for kids. If you are interested in this event see the Facebook events page and let them know you will be attending.

John Schwartz of the Bee Farm speaking about “OTS” (on the spot queen rearing) will be guest speaker at their upcoming April 16th club meeting.

Something unique this club is trying is live streaming their club meetings on YouTube. If getting to a meeting is difficult you can watch and learn from the comfort of your living room. Visit their Facebook page for more info.

A special thank you to this club for co-sponsoring the OSBA 4H winner Shane Freely (mentor Dan Zikursh).

**Trumbull County Beekeepers** held their beginning beekeepers class on March 10th. The club meetings are the second Sunday of each month at 2 pm at the OSU Trumbull Extension Office in Cortland, Ohio. In February they hosted Steve Repasky, EAS Master Beekeeper, of Meadow Sweet Apiaries from Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. He spoke about “Starting out your Season”, “Strengthening your Hive” and “Swarms”. He was very well received and the club hopes to invite him to present at another meeting in the near future. In March Peggy Garnes, Vice President of OSBA spoke about “Apiary Sustainability” and “How Beekeepers can utilize the Apiary Diagnostics Kit”. On Sunday, April 8th they will host Michelle Colopy. She will discuss “Our Roles as Beekeepers” as well as “Responsibilities of Spray Applications”. Visit the Trumbull County Beekeepers Facebook page for more info.

**Portage County Beekeepers** held their beginning beekeepers classes the 4 Thursdays in February and welcomed 51 new beekeepers into their club. Their regular meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna, Ohio, from 7-9pm. In March Roy Hendrickson spoke about “Spring Management” and “Getting Bees Ready for the Honey Flow”. In July Frank Licata, General Manager of Mann Lake will be speaking on “Honey Bee Nutrition”. They will have a meeting in April (TBA) for a Hive Install Workshop; activities include a package install and a nuc install. They also have a Spring Field Day scheduled for Sunday May 20th at the Portage County Soil and Water in Ravenna, Ohio. Activities include a Spring Hive Inspection, potluck and a presentation. You can visit their website for further club and event information.

A special thank you to this club for co-sponsoring the OSBA 4H winner, Garret Tomasek (mentor Geoff Westerfield).

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers** held their beginning beekeepers classes the 4 Wednesdays in February and welcomed 94 new beekeepers into their club. Their regular meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmsted, Ohio from 7-9pm. In March Denzil St Clair from Queen Right Colonies spoke about “Coming through Spring”. In April Melanie Seal from Blue Sky Bees will be speaking on “Making Splits”. They have a Field Day on Saturday May 19 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in the Bee Barn. In June Dave Noble from Stratford Ecological Center will be speaking about “Biology Based Management”. You can visit their website for further club and event information.

**Lorain County Beekeepers** have been keeping busy during this cold weather. Unfortunately the January meeting was canceled due to the icy storm but they made up for it in February. Two of their members provided presentations, Joe Pritash presented “Organic Ways to Kill Mites with No Chemicals” followed by Bob Stones’ speaking on “The Flow Hive.” LCBA completed the first of four week classes on Beginning Beekeeping with 100 new class members. LCBA is working in partnership with the North Ridgeville Ranger Academy to help their class learn about beekeeping. Our March meeting will have Kim Flottum presenting an Advance Beekeeping class for our members. We are starting to make plans for our fair booth for this summer and our LCBA 100th Anniversary Celebration for the fall of October 2019!

Their regular meetings are held the 2nd Friday of each month at Life Church in Grafton, Ohio at 7pm. They also have their 24th annual Field Day, Saturday June 2nd at Queen Right Colonies in Spencer, Ohio. You can visit their website for further club and event information.

**Medina County Beekeepers** hosted two very successful beginner classes again this year. Several club members and past officers presented the classes covering equipment, zoning/location, biology, labeling and the dreaded varroa mite. The Saturday day class and Tuesday evening class kept the library busy.

Exciting speakers for the upcoming months and field days are being planned so mark your calendars for the third Monday of each month to attend the club. The club’s bee yard has been relocated to the property at Feeding Medina County to help pollinate their community gardens and supply honey to the families, children and elderly they feed. The club will be hosting their field days on their site.

The observation hive at the Medina County Library was depopulated in March and the hive was sent out to be cleaned and refilled with a new nuc of bees. This past year was the second longest period of time that the hive survived in the children’s section of the library. Club members, led by President Paul Kosmos, maintain and service the hive throughout the year. It’s been a challenge but the library bee squad almost has a complete year of live bees at the library. Their goal is to be able to manage the hive through a complete season.
Miami Valley

Greene County Beekeepers Association: sponsored a Beginner Beekeeping Class with over 55 students. The club’s new Co-op has already provided books and drone comb at a significant discount to club members. Preparations are starting for their first ever Field Day.

Warren County Beekeepers had a filled Beginner Beekeeping Class, and is working to develop a 4-H beekeeping club in 2019.

Southwest Ohio Girl Beekeepers held their 2nd Annual Symposium at the Caesar’s Creek Welcome Center.

From Mike Doseck - Top of Ohio:

Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association “Beekeeping and bees” are on the public’s mind and so the February Beginning Beekeeping class was another success. This increases membership to over 100 and it’s not about how many are in the Club, but how do we keep educating the new beekeepers and providing them with a chance for a good success rate in their first year. We have addressed this correlation between success rate and membership retention by offering mentorships and special hands on activities.

During April, May and June we will be holding equipment building sessions. During these sessions we will be able to discuss planning for the months ahead. Many will not have their bees yet and when they come will wonder what to do with them; installing nucs, what to feed them, monitoring for mites, is the queen laying and is she a good queen. This is the time to invite new beekeepers to experienced beekeepers yards for observations.

Movement ahead is also progressing with the pollinator habitat with the City of St Marys. A grant application has been sent in for this program, with the help of Michele Colopy and the Pollinator Stewardship Council. Our Executive Board and Grant Committee met with Michele Colopy and Terry Lieberman-Smith for the presentation of OSBA’s Grant Presentation PowerPoint in March.

Those in attendance came away with basic information about grants and what to expect. We now have an idea of where to look, assigning jobs to qualified people, what might be required from the Club, and carefully following instructions. It’s about no guarantees and grant writing persistence and experience.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association moved the club hives to a temporary location while Brukner Nature Center builds a new barn.
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Ohio State Fair - Honey and Bee Items

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

**Entry Deadline: June 20, 2018**

Online Entry Only: https://ohiostatefair.com/how-to-enter/

Entry Information will be mailed to you in July.

Rules: https://ohiostatefair.com/culinary/


### Honey and Bee Items - Division #3105

**CLASS: Honey Baking**

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1. Breads (full loaf)
2. Brownies (6-8 pcs.)
3. Pies (full pie)
4. Cakes (full cakes; unfrosted)
5. Cookies (6-8; unfrosted)

Best of Show (classes 1-5) .................... Rosette

### CLASS: Honey

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6. Water White and Extra White
7. White 34mm
8. Xtra Light Amber to Light Amber
9. Amber to Dark Amber above
10. Creamed/Granulated

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

### CLASS: Honey, Other

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11. Honey Frames
12. Bee/Honey Gift Item

Best of Show (classes 11-13) .................... Rosette

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

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

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- Contact our office for more information!

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https://www.companycasuals.com/OSBA/start.jsp

Congratulations to Dick Mullet! He was the winner of the drawing at the OSBA table at Tri-County Workshop. Dick wore OSBA logowear and stopped by the table to enter the drawing.

THE 2018 HONEYFEST WILL BE THE 12TH ANNUAL "BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER"
FRIDAY, SEPT. 7TH, 3 - 7 PM
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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 provide to the newsletter.

Jim Higgins, fondly known as “Dr. Sting”, passed away on Sunday March 25th. He was a graduate of The Ohio State University. He was past President of the Highland County Beekeepers Association, served on both the Board of the American Apitherapy Society (AAS) and the Board of The Ohio State Beekeepers Association. He studied Bee Venom Therapy under the world master Charles Mraz of Middlebury, Vt., and visited China twice on the subject of Apitherapy.

Jim administered bee stings at his home, and trained a number of practicing bee venom therapists. He taught at the AAS courses, and lectured on Apitherapy in the US, Canada and Cuba. He has also produced a three part video on Bee Venom Therapy. Jim authored articles published in “Bee Culture,” “The American Bee Journal,” and the Journal of the AAS.

Gordon Rudloff: passed away unexpectedly Friday morning, January 12, 2018 at his residence. He received his bachelor’s degree from the Ohio State University in 1972. Gordon was an Agricultural Inspection Manager for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Apiary and Seed Sections, retiring after 30 years. He wrote the laws for beekeeping and honey collecting which are still in use today. He wrote many of the Fact Sheets still available on the ODA website.

Richard Manley died suddenly on February 27, 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. He was a gentleman farmer with an emphasis on beekeeping. He also taught continuing education at Case Western Reserve University’s Farm in Hunting Valley. He was past President of Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association and Geauga County Beekeepers Association. For many years he served on the OSBA Board as Regional Director, Western Reserve

Bill Beebe died February 14, 2018. Known to many at the Bucyrus Farmers Market as Beebe’s Bees, where he sold honey, soap and beeswax candles; Bill could talk for hours about bees. He was a past president of the Richland Area Beekeepers Association and operated his own beekeepers supply store.

Marvin Leverne Laney died Friday, March 2, 2018. Marvin was employed by Caravat Coal Company for 16 ½ years as a heavy equipment operator and later joined Baker Highway Express and retired from there following 10 ½ years of service. Marvin was an avid beekeeper who also loved caring for his flower and vegetable gardens and playing on his HAM Radio.
2018 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

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

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- Beekeeping Training DVD set
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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: __________________

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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