A Celebration of Ohio Beekeeping

OSBA Fall Conference-
November 3, 2018 Plain City, OH
Invest a day in your education for a lifetime of better beekeeping

This year’s OSBA Fall Conference will be another record setting event.
Speakers include:

Dr. Marla Spivak
Dr. David Tarpy
Dr. Reed Johnson
Gabe Blatt
Mike Connors
Dr. Abigail Snyder

And other educational break-out sessions, large vendor area, honey contest, OSU Beelab honey testing, auction table, and more!

Registration opens the beginning of September

Dr. David Tarpy

David Tarpy is a Professor of Entomology and the Extension Apiculturist at North Carolina State University since 2003. As Extension Apiculturist, he maintains an apiculture web site dedicated to the dissemination of information and understanding of honey bees and their management, spearheads numerous extension projects (such as the 2005 New Beekeeper Cost-sharing program that created hundreds of new beekeepers within the state), and launched the Beekeeper Education & Engagement System (BEES)—an exciting online learning resource for knowledge and understanding of bees and beekeeping.

Dr. Marla Spivak

Dr. Marla Spivak, an entomologist, and Distinguished McKnight University Professor at the University of Minnesota, 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. 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.
Our OSBA Fall Conference Vendor List
Includes:

Bee Culture Magazine
Bee Hive Thermal
BEEoothecary
Bellas Bee Supply
Blue Sky Bee Supply
Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
Dadant*
Ernst Seeds
Kelley Bees
Lady Bug Acres
Mann Lake
Mocking Bird Meadows
O'Keefe Electronics
Oxavap
Strong Microbials
Superior Bee
The Bee Barn of S.E. Ohio

*Special Offer from the Frankfort Dadant location: All Pre-orders before October 26th will receive 2017 catalog pricing, plus an additional 5% off their entire order. Please call the Frankfort store to place orders at 502-848-0000 or toll free at 1-888-932-3268. When placing your order please state that it is for the OSBA conference in November when ordering.

Our OSBA Conference Sponsors Include:

Beekeeping Insurance Services
Deer Creek Honey Farm
StickerYou.com

Have Fun Entering The Contest Or Just Watching The Judging

Get your entries ready for the OSBA Fall Conference Honey Judging Event.

Judges Jim Thompson and John Grafton (pictured left) will be working to help train two apprentice judges from the OSBA Honey Judging class.

OSBA Regional Director, Marishka Wile (pictured right), helping to organize the abundant entries on the table.
Humming Along

Busy as a bee, we are all certainly that this time of year.

Along with regular OSBA activities, I have been invited to provide presentations to a design company, participate in a panel discussion during an OSU Extension Workshop, present the Library Award to Graham Local Schools (the bee pictured at right greeted me in the parking lot of the school), share beekeeping information with the public during Pollinator Week at Krohn’s Conservatory and at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, visit our collaborative pollinator habitat project at the Dayton VA and Fairborn Cement, and of course testify during the hearings for HB 392 at the State House.

OSBA is busy behind the scenes working to constantly improve the OSBA Fall Conference experience for our attendees, along with developing a new workshop for local association leaders. Yes, leaders too need a re-charge for their batteries, and spend time honing their leadership skills. Find out more about the OSBA Build A Better Bee Club in this newsletter.

The OSBA Traveling Speaker remains popular, with 23 out of the 25 available presentation slots already scheduled. All the evaluation forms are reviewed and tallied, and from your feedback we are designing next year’s topic. If your club needs to schedule a presentation, please contact me at president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org.

Speaking of the OSBA Fall Conference, it is the perfect way for beekeepers to end our 2018 beekeeping season and start planning for 2019. Meet with fellow beekeepers for an educational, fun-filled day of everything beekeeping. Pack your car for the trip home with all the equipment you can build over the winter. Not only will you have saved money on shipping and handling, but you will also have that boost of beekeeping energy needed for the long winter ahead.

If you are thinking, “Yes, I want to be an active part of an organization that helps support and promote beekeeping,” then please contact me at president@ohiostatebeekeeper.org. We are always looking for enthusiastic beekeepers who are willing to improve the beekeeping industry here in Ohio.

OSBA can achieve even more with your help.
FieldWatch: A New Partnership with ODA

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is partnering with FieldWatch, Inc. to introduce a new sensitive crop registry. FieldWatch is a not-for-profit company with registries used by multiple states and private companies across the country.

The Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry (OSCR) through by FieldWatch will allow beekeepers and commercial producers of specialty crops to register and map their sites online with an easy-to-use mapping tool and provide contact information about location. Pesticide applicators can access the site to help determine the scope and location of specialty crops and beehives in their areas. Registered applicators can sign up to receive email notifications when new specialty crop fields or beehives are added to their designated state, county or areas.

The new registry is free and voluntary to use. Both commercial and hobby beekeepers can use the system, however only managers and owners of specialty crop fields that are used for commercial production and are of at least a half-acre in size will have fields approved by the state data steward. OSCR by FieldWatch is not intended for homeowners or those with small gardens.

Pesticide applicators will have different options for viewing locations on the new system but all users (applicators, producers, and beekeepers) will need to go to www.fieldwatch.com and create an account to get started.

Some features of FieldWatch and BeeCheck:

* Easy to Access - Free & Voluntary to use
* Hive placement can be done via GPS or manual "point ‘n click" with mouse
* Hives are identified with a 1/2 acre circle and pin
* Hives locations are approved and validated by ODA
* Ability to add multiple hives in one submission
* A upgraded mobile app (see photo)

Questions about OSCR by FieldWatch can be directed to 614-728-6386 or SensitiveCropRegistry@agri.ohio.gov or info@fieldwatch.com.

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.
Partnership with Betterbee Expands Opportunity for OSBA Apiary Diagnostic Kit

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Inc. (OSBA) is proud to announce a partnership with Betterbee, beekeeping product supplier, to expand the opportunity to provide the Apiary Diagnostic Kit (ADK) to beekeepers across the country. The ADK was developed by OSBA through the support of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant to provide these kits to first-year Ohio beekeepers. The popularity of the ADK inspired the OSBA Board to designate funds to create additional kits for sale to non-first year beekeepers. Because demand was so successful, this all volunteer state association sought a partner to oversee the assembly and on-going sales of the Apiary Diagnostic Kit.

“The OSBA has done a great job of bringing together many of the tools you need to diagnose bee diseases with a manual that is second to none. As beekeeping becomes more popular and states cut back funding for bee inspectors, it is more important that individual beekeepers start to monitor hives for disease and treat accordingly. Early detection of bee diseases helps to prevent their spread,” said Chris Cripps, a veterinarian, beekeeper, and one of the owners of Betterbee.

President, Terry Lieberman-Smith stated, “OSBA created the ADK to provide the tools and guidebook for new beekeepers to become confident in their monitoring skills for sustainable beekeeping. We are pleased Betterbee saw this value, and is working with us to support beekeeper education.”

The ADK grant funded project supported the distribution of 700 of the kits free to new beekeepers in Ohio who took a beginning bee class, registered their apiary, and purchased bees and bee equipment. New beekeepers then became part of a monthly electronic education program accompanying their ADK; and OSBA provided thirty presentations around Ohio to local bee clubs on how to use the monitoring tools.

OSBA is very pleased with the success of our USDA grant project supporting the education of our beekeepers as they learn to monitor their hive health, helping to reduce over-winter losses. Through the vision of OSBA leadership, Project Manager Terry Lieberman-Smith, ADK Distribution Coordinator, Tim Arheit, and the time and assistance of our beta-testers and those wonderful volunteers who helped assemble the original 1000 ADKs in one day, our state beekeeping association fulfills its mission of providing beekeeper education and support for Ohio’s beekeepers.

To order your OSBA Apiary Diagnostic Kit from Betterbee go to https://www.betterbee.com/pest-management-and-medications/osba-adk.asp

Chris Cripps, one of the owners of Betterbee, with the first ADK off the assembly line.
Bee City USA: Why Not Your City in 2019?

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/
OSBA Affiliate Program: Helping Ohio Associations Stronger, Safer, Secure

Join the
- Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association
- Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association
- Guernsey Noble Beekeepers Association
- Medina County Beekeepers Association
- Miami Valley Beekeepers Association
- Portage County Beekeepers Association
- Richland Area Beekeepers Association
- Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association
- Tuscarawas County Beekeepers Association
- Greene County Beekeepers Association
- Geauga County Beekeepers Association
- Black Swamp Beekeepers Association
- Harrison County Beekeepers Association
- Lake County Beekeepers Association

as an affiliate of OSBA. The OSBA Affiliate Program was developed to provide local beekeeping associations with the safety and security necessary to manage a responsible beekeeping association. Local associations can become an affiliate of OSBA, renewing each year to remain an affiliate. If your local association decides to withdraw from the Affiliate Program they can do that. However, OSBA believes that the Affiliate Program will show its value to future board members through cost savings, time savings and current and future perks, but enrollment can be withdrawn by your elected board.

As an Affiliate you continue to manage your club as your Board and members wish. As an Affiliate you continue to run your local association, hold the programs your members want, elect the officers your members elect.

As an OSBA Affiliate your bee club would now enjoy the cost savings for insurance, annual reporting, and other services offered by OSBA. A new service we have added is a monthly newsletter just for affiliates that addresses issues of club management, treasurer reports, speakers, committees, and all the things needed to manage a club that serves its members.

Most importantly, your Board members can know they are protected from liability, as are your members. Find out more at http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/about-osba/osba-affiliated-association-program/

Become an affiliate of OSBA today and make your bee club stronger, safer, secure.
Within the boundaries of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, is Camp Manatoc, of the Great Trail Council of the Boy Scouts where beekeepers and scouts have come together for pollinators. This project includes project manager, Pollinator Stewardship Council, partners Camp Manatoc and Chris Bergdorff, Director of Camping, Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Summit County Beekeepers Association, Boy Scout leader and beekeeper Mike Rossander (of the Medina County Beekeepers Association), his son, an Eagle Scout, Sean Rossander; the hive mentor, John Irvine of Summit County Beekeepers Association, and funders Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Cascade Auto Group, Syngenta, and the Medina High School Senior Class of 2018.

The Medina High School Senior class learned about pollinators, and raised funds to plant a pollinator garden at the high school and in support of this project. The students planted the Eastern Great Lakes pollinator mix from Ohio Prairie Nursery at the Medina High School in May. Michele Colopy, Program Director of the Pollinator Stewardship Council met with the students and assisted them on planting day. The Senior class support will also supply the scouts with additional youth bee veils, jackets, and beekeeping supplies. The pollinator habitat land prep and seeds was funded by Cascade Subaru and Syngenta, with the land work and seeds by Ohio Prairie Nursery.

Additional support of this project came from the Summit County Beekeepers Assn. Ohio State Beekeepers Association provided the same beginning kits as the 4-H students, and honey bees to the Scout Camp.

The Great Trail Council theme this year is the “Best of the Midwest: Agriculture.” They were very pleased to be able to bring beekeeping to Camp Manatoc. The half-acre of pollinator habitat is planted by Ohio Prairie Nursery just above Lake Litchfield at the Camp, and should be ready to bloom by the end of June. Two bee hives are on-site with local honey bees. The Scouts, with Mike Rossander’s guidance, built an observation screen behind the hives. Opening day at Camp Manatoc is June 17, the beginning of pollinator week.

The Pollinator Stewardship Council and Ohio State Beekeepers Association want to thank the many volunteers who are making this project a success.
Specialty Crop Block Grant-- What it Means for Ohio Beekeepers

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 less than 160 kits remaining, 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: $69.45 through Betterbee www.betterbee.com/pest-management-and-medications/osba-adk.asp

Traveling Speaker Program: The Second Season

Your OSBA Board is sponsoring a 2018 Traveling Speaker Series. The topic is “Sustainable Beekeeping using Nucs.” OSBA covers the majority of the cost for this program. There is a nominal fee to reserve a Traveling Speaker: $35 for OSBA affiliates, and $50 for non-affiliates.

We currently have 22 of the 25 available presentation scheduled. To schedule a speaker, please contact Terry Lieberman-Smith at osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com.

The OSBA Traveling Speaker Team for 2018

Tim Arheit  Joe Kovaleski
Peggy Garnes  Jamie Walters
Bob Hooker

Sustainability Thru Nucs

A Presentation Of The
Ohio State Beekeepers Association
The Save The Honey Bee License Plate: What’s on Your Car?

This plate brings 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, 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.

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.

The manual 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
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., July 14, 2018
Deadline to register: July 7 2018
Registration fee: $35 per beekeeping association
Time: 10 a.m. - noon
Meeting site: Nelsonville Library, 95 W. Washington, Nelsonville, OH 45764
Meeting room: Large Meeting Room

We will host this presentation in 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., July 14, 2018

For more information about this presentation please contact the OSBA Treasurer at treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

To schedule a presentation to just your local beekeeping association contact president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
New OSBA Workshop for Local Association Leaders

Build A Better Bee Club

As a local association leader, you wear many hats: organizer, mentor, referee, facilitator, coach, accountant, event planner, etc. Whether you have a club of 10 members or 100, you and your board devote a lot of time throughout the year to help energize your beekeeping community.

During conversations with leaders, we hear many of concerns about the same issues facing clubs from across the state. All leaders deal with similar problems, and sometimes they too need someone to help them deal with issues and re-charge their enthusiasm.

OSBA Affiliates and other club leaders have asked for a workshop that will help them improve their clubs, from how to hold a meeting, contracts for speakers, and responsibilities of Boards and individual Board members.

To meet these requests of our affiliates and other bee club leaders, OSBA will present the “Build A Better Bee Club Workshop” for current and new Board members of Ohio’s bee clubs.

Registration for the workshop will be $10 per person for affiliate clubs, and $15 per person for NON affiliated clubs. Workshop registration will be limited to 50 participants.

Planned breakout sessions include information for the individual officers of clubs, Club communications, How to conduct local advocacy, recruiting volunteers, and more.

Mark your calendar.

Date: Saturday, December 8, 2018
Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location: Ashland University Columbus Education Center, 1900 E. Dublin Granville Rd, Columbus, OH 43229

OSBA Apiary Diagnostic Kit: Feedback from Users

Dear OSBA,

I was able to take advantage of the ADK last year and I was telling a friend about it. Nicholas is keeping bees this year and he and I used my kit to test my hives with the sugar roll. I was able to show him the contents and he plans to apply for one. Just thought you all might like to see it in use.

Thanks for the great help in keeping the hive(s) healthy.

John Paul Antalek
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
FIGHT THE MITES

Now is the best time of year to keep an eye on your varroa mite count. Running a Mite Count is a significant and simple way to help keep your hives healthy for the remainder of the season and into the winter.

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OSBA 4-H Sponsorship Winners

Garret Tomasek - Portage County Beekeepers

It has been an exciting few months. It took me about a week to fully set up my hives and paint them, getting them ready for my bees that arrived at the end of April. Since then I have performed many inspections of my two hives. When they had first arrived, we began feeding them with sugar water which they have been storing in their newly drawn out comb. We had ordered our bees with a marked queen and right from the start both the queens began laying eggs. However, with our sugar water feeders above the first deep super, it allowed them to make burr comb in between the two trays which I have scraped out many times and collected.

About a week ago we added on another deep super since the first one was filled out, allowing them to begin on the second. I hope to use the burr comb to make wax candles. As the summer moves on I plan to begin varroa mite checks on my bees. I have included a photo of my dad and I first installing my bees.

Pictured left: Garrett and his dad installing a package

Shane Freel - Trumbull County Beekeepers

In my first year with the 4-H scholarship, I have had many opportunities to work with bees and some of the people who keep them. So far I have had beekeeping opportunities with Rick Becker, Peggy Garnes and Dan Zikursh. These people have helped me learn bees in many different ways from explaining the life cycle of a bee to telling me the diseases and how to treat them.

I have to thank Rick Becker. Rick is the Trumbull county beekeeper inspector, and he has given me many opportunities to work with his bees as well as mine. He is helping me learn to read frames and find queens as well as many other aspects of beekeeping. I have also had the opportunity to go to Georgia this past spring and bring his bees back to Ohio. This helped me tremendously because I had no clue what migratory beekeeping was. Working with Rick has been a great experience. I have gained so much hands on experience that has helped me make sense of the information that I have learned in the books that I have read.

I have also had the opportunity to talk and get tons of information about bees from Peggy Garnes. I have been to a few conference like Tri-State in Wooster and I have learned a lot about bees from her. I am also getting my nucs from her.

The person who has taught me a lot about the diseases in hives is Dan Zikursh. He is a scientist and president of Lake County Beekeepers. Hopefully I won’t have any of the problems, but you never know.

These are the people that I have worked with on beekeeping information and experience. And I will be working with them regularly about the health and wellness of my colonies.
William Bacho

My experience in beekeeping so far has had its ups and downs. I joined the Columbiana Mahoning county bee keeping club. The meetings were very informative and I made numerous connections. I ordered 2 bee packages from a member of the club as did others. On April 2, 2018 with the help of my mentor I installed both packages. I provided them with sugar water as well as pollen patties to help them get a good start. We had a cold snap and when I checked on them on April 8th both hives had died. To say the least I was very frustrated.

On April 12th I attended a beekeeping class put on by the Geauga county beekeepers and obtained some contacts to acquire new bees. I ordered a 5 frame nuc from one of their members as I was only able to acquire 1 bee package from my group. Om April 28th I installed the package and all has been well with them and I have actually had to add a second box to that hive. The hive is strong and the queen is laying well.

My nuc was ready to pick up on May 31 and I actually installed it in my equipment myself. This hive is also doing well as the queen is laying very well and I anticipate adding another box shortly.
I had a bumpy start but all seems well and it is exciting to check on the hives and see the progress the bees are making.

Evelyn Smiddy

When I first received my bees I really knew nothing about how to care for them or how to even inspect a hive. Over the past few months, I continue to learn the basics of caring for them and I have discovered how hard those little bees work to make one jar of honey.

We have two hives, one green and one purple. Installing our bees was fairly easy, and my dad and I came out with no stings. A week after installation, we inspected the hive for the first time. Just by watching the outside of both hives it seemed that the green hive was weak, because there were less bees going in and out, but I was in for a surprise.

After opening up both hives we discovered that they were both strong but the green hive was actually strongest. My bees are working hard and the frames are already full of capped honey, capped brood, and lots of working bees. I have also been able to watch a few bees hatching and am happy to see my hive is still growing.

Our most recent inspection was June 27th and we found both hives are thriving with hundreds of busy bees, capped brood, and honey.
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Expanded Library Grant Thanks to Bee Culture. First Grant Awarded to Graham Middle School

Lisa Bowman, and her Graham Middle School Falcon Farm Junior Beekeepers in St. Paris, OH now have an apiary (with support from local association Miami Valley Beekeepers), queen producer Vickie Bowman, and a library of educational books from the OSBA Underserved Educational Library grant.

The class’s hives are located near the new greenhouse and organic clover pasture.

OSBA received requests for educational assistance from underserved groups over the past few years. We always put them in touch with a near-by beekeeping association, and gave them suggestions as to other educational on-line resources.

We now can do more. Your OSBA Board 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.

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

If you work with an underserved group that needs educational materials, contact OSBA Treasurer, Michele Colopy, for details and the grant application.
Pollinator Stewardship Council-Medina County Beekeepers-OSBA
OEEF Grant Update

Fairborn Cement - 32 acres in pollinator habitat. This year, the Dayton Daily News featured an article about this project during Pollinator Week. Students from The University of Akron and The Ohio State University visited the site to conduct research on habitat for bees and other pollinators. The abundant wildlife and floral diversity kept the students busy while they were conducting their counts. We thank Fairborn Cement and Rusty Strader, beekeeper and Quality Control Manager at Fairborn Cement, for helping to make this pollinator habitat a reality.

The Dayton Veteran’s Administration - 2 acres of pollinator habitat. We were greeted by flocks of swifts and yellow finches. The acreage is in bloom and the field is abuzz with insects, birds and other wildlife. We thank the management at the Dayton VA for helping to establish this attractive habitat for both the wildlife and the residents of the Dayton VA. We would like to thank Bryan Boyd for initiating the project, and to Tara Ducoli and Luronde Lane for continuing to support this habitat project.

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Free Admission, Parking and Shuttle

- BEE BEARDS & BEEKEEPERS
- HONEY & HONEY TASTING
- MEAD COMPETITION
- HONEYFEST QUEEN PAGEANT
- HONEY BAKE OFF
- OHIO HONEY SHOW
- HONEY EXTRACTION
- HIVE INSPECTION
- JR. BEEKEEPING
- AMERICAN HONEY PRINCESS
- MEAD & WINE TASTING
- FOODS MADE WITH HONEY
- BUSY BEEHIVE KIDS CRAFTS
- PHOTO CONTEST
- GREAT ART & LIVE MUSIC
- BLOOM CARROLL KIWANIS
- HONEY BEER GARDEN
OSBA at the Ohio State Fair: July 29—August 5 2018

This multi-day extravaganza provides the general public with a variety of beekeeping stations where they can learn about the importance of honey bees. The public can see bee beards, observation hives, display apiary area, and visit vendor areas. OSBA funds the Pavilion which includes supporting the Honey Contests at the Ohio State Fair. Equipment donations for the beeyard are provided by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, Conrad Hive and Honey, Dadant, Honey Run Apiaries, and Mann Lake.

Tentative Schedule:

Sun., July 29:
10:30a – 11:30a – Tour the replica of a real bee yard and see how bees live in a beekeeper’s apiary
1:30p – Watch gardening experts Ron Wilson and Tom Wood try their hand at wearing (real) bee beards
3-4p – Learn from Master Gardener Tina Bobek how to attract pollinators to your yard with easy to grow plants
4-5p- Ask a Beekeeper.

Mon. July 30:
10a-2p – Can you find the queen bee in the observation hives? Give it a try, it’s fun!
11a-12:30p – Veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell will take you on a tour of a beeyard.
12:30p – The All-Ohio State Fair Band visits the pavilion and plays selections to help set the stage for this week’s first bee beard demonstration!
1p – Watch Barry Conrad place live bees around his face to form a “bee beard.” (weather permitting)
3p-4p – Explore a hive with the American Honey Queen

Tues. July 31:
10a-11a – Sample different honeys from vendors and discover their flora source.
11a-12:30p – Explore OSBA’s beeyard with the honey queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell.
1p-3p – Master Gardener and beekeeper Tina Bobek will be available to answer your questions about how you can plant gardens to benefit honey bees.
3p-4p – Using products from the hive to pamper your hair and face
4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper.

Wed. Aug. 1:
11a-12:30p – Explore the Ohio State Beekeepers Association’s beeyard and learn from the honey queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell
1p-2p – Learn about what it takes to start a pollinator garden to attract bees and butterflies. We have the seeds!
2p- Want more bees and butterflies in your garden? Master Gardener/beekeeper Tina Bobek will tell you how.

• 3p-4p – Learn from beekeeper Marishka Wile about soap-making using products from the bee hive
• 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper.

Thurs. Aug. 2:
9a – Find out how easy it is to have your own beehive.
11a-12:30p – Explore OSBA’s beeyard with the honey queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell.
1p-2p – Learn how to identify the different species of bees such as the honey bee, wasp, bumble bee and sweat bee.
3p – How to use honey and other hive products to pamper your hair and face
4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper.

Fri. Aug. 3:
10a-11a – Representatives of local beekeeping clubs will be available to answer your question or to get you started in beekeeping.
11a-12:30p – Tag along with the American Honey Queen Honey and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell and learn how to become a beekeeper.
1p – Watch a real live bee beard demonstration (weather permitting)
2p-2:30p – Photo opportunities with the honey queen and Honey Bear!
3p – Learn how to plant pollinator-friendly gardens from Master Gardener and beekeeper Tina Bobek
4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper.

Sat. Aug. 4:
10a-11a – Tag along with the American Honey Queen Honey and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell in a model bee yard and learn how to become a beekeeper.
1p – Bee beard demonstration. Watch beekeeper Dan

(Continued on page 46)
Honey Ginger Lemonade Concentrate

Just what the hot and thirsty beekeeper needs this summer

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

1. Bring water and ginger to a boil.
2. Turn off heat and let steep for about 15 minutes. Strain.
3. Add honey and lemon juice. Stir to combine. Store in fridge
4. To use: Equal parts of the concentrate and a liquid of your choice. I like to use carbonated water for a refreshing, after apiary visit drink!
5. Skewer up some icy-cold fruit for extra fun!

Instead of ginger, try using some fresh basil or rosemary

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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When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.
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No Teaspoons Allowed
(recipes that really use honey)

Save The Honey Bee Stickers

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

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

www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/stickers/
What is OSBA

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

If you have not met your region’s Representative or Director at your club’s meeting, please invite them for a visit. Their contact information is available at:

Feeding Basics

In today’s Varroa dominant world, knowing when and how to feed is one of the most critical beekeeping skills. Timely feeding of both carbohydrates and protein supplements will not only prevent colony starvation, but will help support the colony’s immune system in the battle against Varroa and its host of associated viruses. This article looks at the basics of how and when to feed and describes some basic recipes and mixing techniques.

From an operational standpoint, top feeding is by far the easiest and most efficient way for small beekeepers to feed. By top feeding I refer to the practice of feeding through the center hole in the inner cover. Feeding in this manner is both economical and extremely effective. The feed container can consist of whatever is handy. Quart Mason jars or plastic gallon jugs make excellent feeders. The rate of syrup consumption is controlled by the number of holes punched in the feeder lid. The more holes the greater the rate of consumption. Ideally the holes should be about 1/16” of an inch in diameter, or slightly larger than a standard frame nail. Use a 4 or 6d nail and a tack hammer, and tap the nail just hard enough to drive the point partially through the metal lid. When inverted over the center hole in the inner cover, the feeder should be elevated about a quarter of an inch to allow the bees’ complete access to the feed holes. Use a couple of empty supers or an empty hive body to protect the feeder from the elements. With this system, once feeding has commenced it’s often possible to quickly replace or refill the feeder without the use of either a smoker or veil.

When to Feed
Feeding should commence whenever the need arises. In extremely poor years when the threat of late summer starvation exists, you should begin feeding immediately upon removal of the honey crop. Colonies on the verge of starvation in late August or early September rarely rebuild in time to overwinter successfully. However the heaviest feeding normally occurs from early September through the end of October as beekeepers prepare their colonies for winter. Beekeepers operating in more northern latitudes should also make every effort to supply their colonies early spring feed requirements through their fall feeding regimen. It’s much easier to feed heavy syrup during the warm days of late summer and early fall, than it is to initiate an emergency feeding program during the cold and wet weather of early spring.

Over the past few years a disturbing trend has begun to invade the beekeeping scene. The long standing late season feeding regimen described above has been partially replaced with an over reliance on fondant, sugar bricks, candy boards and the like. Varroa aside, it’s no wonder winter losses have reached astronomical proportions in some areas. Nothing and I mean absolutely nothing, adequately substitutes for an abundance of carbohydrates, i.e. honey or sugar syrup in the central broodnest area at the onset of the winter period. The alternatives listed above are used as emergency carbohydrate sources at the end of the winter period, or during the cold inclement weather of early spring. They should never be used as a substitute for the primary winter food source, honey or sugar syrup!

Syrup Formulas
Sugar syrup formulas are simply ratios of sugar mixed with water. In general there are two basic mixtures, thin syrup consisting of equal parts sugar and water, and thick syrup featuring a two to one ratio of sugar to water. Thin syrup is the basic spring and summer feed. It’s primarily used to stimulate early season brood rearing, and to allow the colony to maintain its strength through periods of nectar dearth. Heavy syrup is used to augment the winter food supply, to prevent overwinter or early spring starvation.

For small quantity mixing purposes, sugar and water are almost identical when compared on a weight to volume basis. For example, by volume a 4 lb (64oz) bag of sugar measures out to approximately 8 – 8 oz measuring cups. Fill that same 8 oz measuring cup with water, the water also weighs about 8 oz. Therefore a 4 lb bag of sugar when mixed with 8 cups of water would yield roughly 8 lbs of 1:1 syrup. The same bag when mixed with 4 cups of water would yield about 6 lbs of 2:1 syrup. For larger quantities simply convert water volume to a weight based
mixing formula using 8 lbs per gallon as the conversion ratio. For specific sugar weights and the compatible water volumes refer to the table below.

1: 1 Mixtures:

8 lbs of sugar into 8 lbs or (1 gallon) of water
25 lbs of sugar into 25 lbs or (3 gallons + 1 pint) of water

2: 1 Mixtures:

8 lbs of sugar into 4 lbs or (2 quarts or ½ gallon) of water
25 lbs sugar of into 12 ½ lbs or (1 gallon + 2 quarts + 1 cup) of water

Depending on the amount of syrup required, the mixing vessel can be whatever is handy, a bowl or pot, a 5 gallon bucket, or for larger amounts, a 20 gallon garbage can. To mix any type of syrup, run the predetermined amount of hot tap water (130 to 145 degrees) into the mixing vessel, and then add in all the sugar before you start the mixing process. Stir intermittently until the sugar is dissolved. No additional heat source should be necessary.

Emergency Feeding

Since early spring weather patterns and the corresponding honey flows are relatively unpredictable, the threat of early season emergency feeding is always present. The simplest way to solve this problem is to transfer frames of honey from overly heavy colonies to those in need. The same holds true for weak colonies with an excess of stores. Assuming there are no foulbrood issues, don’t be afraid to use the leftover honey from winter deadouts. Colonies in weak to average condition should have at least one frame of feed honey placed adjacent to an outside frame of brood. Strong colonies should have frames of feed honey placed on both sides of the active broodnest.

Absent these options, granulated sugar poured around the center hole in the inner cover will keep the colony alive, but will probably not sustain continuous brood rearing. Candy boards, sugar bricks, and fondant have merit. However the additional cost and the extra effort required to prepare these products somewhat mitigate their value. Why not try wet sugar? This method of feeding is economical in both time and dollars, and provides the necessary carbohydrates for sustained brood rearing. Granulated sugar and cold water are the active ingredients. Preparation consists of mixing roughly 10 parts granulated sugar to 1 part cold water, by volume, to create a product that has the appearance of wet gravel. Out in the yard, scoop the desired amount onto a sheet of waxed paper and place it on the top bars directly above the cluster. Use a deep rimmed inner cover or spacer rim to supply the necessary accommodation space. Within 24 to 36 hours the sugar will harden to a fondant like consistency, and the bees will use it exactly as they would fondant or a candy board.

Protein Supplements

Many new or inexperienced beekeepers mistakenly feed pollen substitute in an attempt to stimulate early spring brood rearing. Realistically, in most of Ohio, early season pollen flows are more than adequate to meet colony nutritional needs. Mid to late summer is the more appropriate time to feed pollen substitute. This is especially true during excessively wet or excessively dry seasons. Both pollen quality and availability are in decline in these situations, while Varroa and its associated virus issues are steadily on the increase. Feeding sugar syrup along with pollen substitute when necessary will go a long way toward maintaining colony health in the battle against Varroa.

Feeding pollen substitute presents a couple of problems for the small operator. First, pollen substitute in any form generally isn’t available locally. In most instances it has to be shipped from a regional or national bee supply dealer. Secondly, preparing the dry product for use requires a substantial amount of time. Purchasing pre-mixed pollen patties is one alternative, but there are several drawbacks. For starters, you’re paying top dollar for sugar and water that can be acquired much cheaper locally. To add further insult to injury, you again pay top dollar to ship the sugar and water as part of the finished product? In addition, pre-mixed pollen patties have a shelf life. If they’re not kept refrigerated or frozen their nutrient value starts to decline after about thirty days.

And there is virtually no way the end user can determine how they have been stored, or for how long. Finally, most of the premixed products are mixed so thick that I believe it would take the average colony several weeks to consume them.

The time factor aside, I suggest you purchase the dry product and learn how to mix it yourself. It’s a fairly simple process, with the added benefits of allowing you to mix only what you need, and to adjust the consistency to your liking. You’ll need a 4 or 5 gallon bucket, a large, heavy duty rubber spatula, and a plastic gallon jug to mix the syrup in. I consider Mega-Bees the premier commercial pollen substitute; the following recipe has served me well. Using the gallon jug, mix 6 lbs of granulated sugar with 3 lbs (6 cups) of hot water, this equates to approximately 9 lbs of 2:1 syrup. To that add 3-4 tablespoons of Honey
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Bee Healthy, which serves as an attractant, and 4 tablespoons of canola oil to maintain texture. I generally leave this mixture set overnight. The following morning I pour the premixed syrup into the bucket, and add 6.5 lbs of Mega-Bee. Using the heavy spatula, stir the ingredients like you would stir cake batter. Periodically run the spatula around the base of the bucket wall to eliminate any corner buildup. The mixing process should take no more than five minutes. When complete you will have about 16 lbs of pollen substitute roughly the consistency of bread dough, although initially it will be quite sticky. Let the mixture set 18-24 hours prior to use. This will allow it to harden, and that will eliminate most of the stickiness. (Store any unused product in the freezer; it will last indefinitely.)

To feed, I use a hive tool and scoop out several baseball sized chunks of substitute which I shape with my hands and replace in the bottom of the bucket. As I move between colonies, without removing the cover, I’ll separate, and tip the upper hive body forward. A few puffs of smoke will usually send the bees scurrying. I’ll then place a ball of substitute (1/2 to 1 lb, depending on colony size) in the center of the lower brood box top bars and press it flat with my free hand. I’ll apply a couple more puffs of smoke and carefully close up the colony. The whole process usually takes less than a minute. To say the bees like this product is a drastic understatement. They literally jump on it, thus the need for quick application to avoid killing bees when repositioning the upper hive body. (The average colony will consume this amount of substitute in 2-4 days.) Lastly, I carry a five gallon bucket, half-full of warm water to keep my hands clean.

In summary, keep the feeding process as simple and economical as possible. Place the main emphasis on fall feeding, to minimize or eliminate the need to feed on an emergency basis the following spring. Finally, don’t neglect mid season protein supplements. The long term health of your colony(s) may depend on it.

(Continued from page 25)
OSBA Elections: November 3, 2018

This year OSBA members will be electing Regional Directors. Regional Director slots, with three year positions, to be voted on are:

**Miami Valley** which covers the following counties: Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Greene, Fayette, Hamilton, Montgomery and Preble.

**Ohio Valley** which covers the following counties: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton

**Heart of Ohio** which covers the following counties: Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion and Morrow


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

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

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

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

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**Beekeeper of the Year Award: Accepting Nominations**

At our annual OSBA Fall Conference, we recognize one outstanding beekeeper that was nominated by his or her peers for outstanding work during the past year in beekeeping. The OSBA Award Committee reviews all nominees and selects only one from the pool of candidates.

Now is the time to take a moment and nominate a beekeeper that you know who deserves recognition for all of their work that benefits not only their local association, but also positively impacts beekeepers across the state. **Nominations close on September 15**.

Contact OSBA President, Terry Lieberman-Smith: president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org or osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com, for the nomination form.

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**Propolis Award: Accepting Nominations**

You know that club member, always willing to step up and help out, whether or not the request is last minute. Always willing to go that extra distance to help make the club experience a positive interaction between club and participants.

They may not want to stand out in a crowd, but without their help, your club would not be a smooth running, member friendly, educational experience. They are the propolis that keeps the hive (club) healthy.

Now is the time to take a moment and nominate a beekeeper you know who deserves recognition for all of their work that benefits not only their club. **Nominations close on September 15**.

Contact OSBA President, Terry Lieberman-Smith: president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org or osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com, for the nomination form.
Take Advantage of These Upcoming Educational Conferences

Heartland Apicultural Society
July 11–13, 2018
Washington University in St Louis

ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE
Eastern Apicultural Society
AUGUST 13-17, 2018
HAMPTON ROADS CONVENTION CENTER
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

Fall Conference
November 3, 2018
Tolles Career & Technical Center
Plain City, OH
Stack Heater Has Many Uses

Have you ever tried to heat a 5-gallon bucket of crystalized honey? Have you ever needed to dry down honey in a super that was uncapped, that you knew was not going to be dry enough? Have you ever tried to spin out a honey super that was at 50 degrees in the fall?

A stack heater, or hot box, may be your solution in each of these scenarios. It is a relatively simple device that can de-crystalize honey and dry uncapped honey very easily. You also can use it as a food dehydrator.

I built the stack heater in the photo with a couple of supers and scrap parts. I started with a deep super for the base and added 3, 100-watt light bulbs attached to a Ranco digital thermostat. (Honey Run Apiaries carries this thermostat.) There is a computer fan attached in the bottom of the box in front of the intake area that draws air through a 4-inch dryer vent tubing.

The fan runs all the time, drawing air from the top of the box, though the tube and across the lightbulbs in a circle manor which helps eliminate hot spots. When I flip the switch, the computer fan comes on and the thermostat turns the lights on to bring the temperatures up in the box. The heat produced by the light bulbs reduces the humidity inside the box. Sometimes humidity builds up in the beginning of the dehumidification process and I need to let in some fresh air to replace the humid air.

A wood rack is placed in the box for buckets, or to place jars to be liquified. It may take 24 hours for a 5-gallon bucket of crystalized honey to liquify when set at about 110 to 115 degrees.

The unit can be stacked with more supers so a couple of buckets or 3 or 4 honey supers can be heated if you like, although the heat at the top seems to reduce the higher you go. I have built a couple of extra slatted shelves for multiple layers of bottles. I was able to get 75 8 ounce bears on 2 shelves the other day.

Tips: If you are trying to heat honey in the frames, keep it under about 115 degrees or you will melt the wax in your frames and the honey will end up in the bottom of the box (yes, this advice comes from experience).

If you are de-capping your frames and they are above 95 degrees, they are harder to de-cap because the wax is too soft and gets torn up in the process. Have fun.
Bee Culture
The Magazine of American Beekeeping

2½ FALL DAYS IN OCTOBER...
4 SUCCESSFUL COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPERS
AN OPPORTUNITY YOU WILL NEVER GET AGAIN!

Listen as four very different commercial beekeepers share how they spend their year; telling us, in their own words and pictures “MY STORY.” Sit back and relax as each fascinating guest spends ½ a day explaining their operations, where they have been and where they are going.

October 19 - 21, 2018

Bret Adee – With locations in California, South Dakota, Nebraska, Acee Honey Farms is probably the world’s biggest beekeeping operation. Acee Honey Farms pollinates primarily almonds in California, but also travel to pollinate cherry and apple trees in Washington and Oregon. On top of that they also produce millions of pounds of honey each year. Follow all those bees for a whole year to see how the biggest makes it work.

Mike Palmer – Mike specializes in the Sustainable Apiary using production colonies, nucleus colonies and mating nucs. That strategy gives him enough bees to produce Vermont’s prime comb honey and sell queens and nucs to others in the area. He isn’t one of the largest but he is one of the best. Learn the how’s of this northern, non-migratory beekeepers success story.

Join us in the conference room at
640 W. Liberty, Medina, OH

Registration begins May 1 and space is limited so don’t wait!

Only $50 per person!

To See Lodging Information
And Register Visit
www.beeulture.com

John Miller – John owns Miller Honey Farms which is based in Blackfoot ID but also has locations in Gackle, ND and Newcastle, CA. Like many commercial beekeepers, John trucks his bees to several states for pollination but what John does differently from most is he winters his bees in advanced wintering buildings in North Dakota; something which is virtually unheard of in the commercial beekeeping industry. Come listen to how he makes it all come together into a successful operation.

Ray Ollivarez – Carefully chosen locations in Northern California, Montana and Hawaii’s Big Island allow Ollivarez Honey Bees to offer customers premium-quality queens and bees year-round. OHB is surely one of the largest package and queen providers in the US with specialty climate controlled trailers that allow them to truck packages across the country. In addition to selling queens and packages, Ray’s team also provides almond pollination and produces honey. To top it all off they offer a retail store to die for and host a large “Hobby Day” every spring. Sure to be a fascinating 4 hours hearing just how they do it the OHB way.
**Highland County Beekeepers** will continue its informal club meetings and camaraderie the third Tuesday of every month. This club is still the best kept secret of Ohio Valley, and 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. For more information about Highland County Beekeepers Association visit them on the web at: [www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com](http://www.highlandcountybeekeepers.com/)

**Brown County Beekeepers:*** had some diverse educational programs this spring. At the April meeting, Emily Archibald with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, gave a program on plants, shrubs and trees that are beneficial to pollinators. The May meeting featured Dr. Gene Kritsky, Professor of Entomology at Mt. St. Joseph University, who discussed beekeeping within the ancient Egyptian civilization based on his book, “The Tears of Re.”

BCBA has been asked to be a part of several educational programs. They are always eager to educate the public about beekeeping and what they may do to assist all the pollinators in our environment.

April 10th was the spring open house at Grant’s Farm and Greenhouses and gave BCBA the opportunity to encourage people to select and plant flowers to help pollinators as well as discuss the basics of beekeeping.

BCBA has recently put together a program on “Bees and Pollination” geared toward the beekeepers of tomorrow. Many children have a natural fear of bees and this program helps to dispel their worries. The program explains the importance of bees in our ecosystem and explains the principles of pollination. In May 14th, this program was given to the 47 kindergarteners at the Fayetteville Elementary School who also got to view the bees up close through an observation hive. On May 18th the third graders of the Sardinia Elementary School learned about “Bees and Pollination” on a recent field trip. This same program will be given at the Hillsboro Public Library on June 28th.

The club is once again participating in the “Summer Enrichment Programs” at Chatfield College in St. Martin, Ohio. The six week course on beekeeping is one of the more popular programs on their summer schedule.

On June 23rd, Ripley, Ohio will feature their city wide program of, “A Day in the Garden.” Once again the club will use this opportunity to educate the public about beekeeping and how each of us in our own way can provide assistance to the pollinators in our region.

For more information about BCBA visit them at browncountybeekeepersassociation.org.

**Adams County Beekeepers** had a lineup of great speakers this spring. In March, Kevin Hale, of Hale’s Honey (haleshoney.com) gave an excellent presentation on making queens and queen health.

In May, Shula Woodworth aka The Honeybee Nanny (https://www.facebook.com/Honeybee-nanny-129511457679585/) presented her personal journey in beekeeping. Originally from Suffolk England, Ms. Woodworth came to the US and learned to become a holistic beekeeper. Her first beehive was dilapidated freebie. Today she has over 20 hives and sells a variety of high-quality skin care products, and teaches classes on beekeeping.

Ms. Woodworth, and Mr. Bobby Geiger are ACBA’s swarm coordinators, and one of the few teams in the area that do cut-outs. As you can see, they have been very busy this season!

On June 21st Kenny Moles will present on bee-sting therapy with a live demonstration. Past president of ACBA, Mr. Moles has been practicing bee-sting therapy for over ten years.

For more information visit: www.facebook.com/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association-214316711916893/
**Association Corner: Erie Basin**

**Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers** had its first annual Advanced Beginning Beekeepers Class on June 9th from 9am-3pm. The morning started off with coffee, homemade cinnamon rolls (mmmm, thanks Mary) & inside class work. The reviewed topics like, mistakes new beekeepers make which included an array of items. Then they moved onto management, covering spring, summer, fall & winter. After lunch students learned how to light smokers using different fuels. They then broke into groups & had the students do inspections, using 5 hives to rotate around to with problems including queenlessness, burr comb, supersedeur cells & a queen right colony. Students learned how to spot eggs, learn what the hive cast looks like, as well as, pointing out pollen, nectar & honey. Returning back indoors, they wrapped up the afternoon with questions & answers. Thankfully, the rain held off. 17 students had a great hands-on experience. A big thank you to Tom Rathbun for providing the facility & the hives!

**Richland Area Beekeepers** After postponing several times due to inclement weather, the 2018 Richland Area Beekeepers’ Association Field Day was held Saturday, June 2, 2018 at Dave Duncan’s apiary in Crestline, OH. Mother Nature rewarded RABA members’ patience with beautiful weather and cool temperatures. Check out the many photos and videos on their website. You will see beekeeping demonstrations, a unique free-form hive, a beelog opening and extraction, Dave’s special guest, and examples the highs and lows of beekeeping. There’s even a video of Dave’s unexpected opening ceremony.

**Association Corner: Buckeye Hills**

**Tri-State Beekeepers Association** area had a questionable spring, but it appears that beekeeping is once again alive for members of the Tri State Beekeepers club! As in years past, the club did a mass order of colonies which arrived on a perfectly cold rainy April day. No better way to test the mettle of both old and new beekeepers alike!

The club welcomed new members at the April meeting to hear a talk by Marshall County Extension on the various programs available to cover farm losses (very appropriate given the colonies lost during the dearth of 17 and extended winter of 18) In May an open-hive day was held at Olgeby Park led by WV State Apiarist Walt Stiltner. As always Walt’s extensive experience and knowledge of beekeeping provided a wealth of information for even the most seasoned beek. The club will not meet in June as every one will be too sticky from honey harvests but will hold their annual picnic in July.

**Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers** is an informal group that meets the last Monday of the month. The hot topics of discussion this spring included installing packages and swarm traps. High on everyone’s list was of concerns was ways to prevent or reduce swarming. Several experienced members from different areas of the county reported strong hives in April dying off in May. Anyone interested is welcome to join the group. For information contact Mark Landefeld at the Extension Office or email landefeld6@osu.edu.

**Athens County Area Beekeepers Association** this quarter had guest speakers OSBA Traveling Speaker Bob Hooker and Lee Donahue. Club members participated in a Field Day in June.
**Association Corner: Maumee Valley**

**Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association** had OSBA Traveling Speaker Tim Arheit at their April meeting. The club is taking their usually summer hiatus.

**Maumee Valley Beekeepers** March 20th meeting, started with a presentation of 11 pairs of gloves and 15 veils to the Wildwood Environmental Academy, for the student to use while in the bee yard at the school. Jamie Walters, guest speaker, covered "Now I am a 2nd year beekeeper." He discussed alcohol washes, use of drone comb, emergency feeding, walk away splits and queen rearing techniques. Discussed other products other than honey in which a beekeeper can sell.

Queen grafting classes were held on May 19th at the Wildwood Environmental Academy. The all day class was $40.

In April, OSBA Traveling Speaker Jamie Walters was guest speaker. Jamie spoke on the subject of "Sustainable Beekeeping Using Nucs."

Member Dave Veith opened one of the hives at the school for inspection and explanation at 6:30.

The chapter will again be having a booth at the Lucas County Fair, which will held July 10th to 15th.

All things Swarms was presented by Mike Horst and James Joseph at the May meeting.

The annual summer field day was June meeting which was held at President Roger Myers property. Guest speaker was Mel Disselkoen, author of the book OTS Queen Rearing: A Survival Guide for Beekeepers Worldwide. There were several stations set up for demonstrations include: queen marking, alcohol wash for mites, nuc building, OTS queen rearing and more. Potluck to follow.

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

**Bowling Green Bees** discussed varied topics, including Randy Oliver’s discussion on the blue shop towel treatment for varroa mite, Flight distance for a queen for mating flight and of the University of Florida’s Honeybee research and Extension Lab during their March meeting.

The June meeting was held in conjunction with the Maumee Valley Chapter field day and Potluck. Regular meeting will resume in July.

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

**Black Swamp Beekeepers** March guest speaker, Dr. Abby Levitt of the University of Findlay spoke on "The Varroa/Virus Connection". Mite monitoring should be done at least once a month, preferably with the alcohol wash. Monitoring should be performed more often in late summer and early fall. Deformed Wing Virus has the largest impact on bees in the US. These bees will not live more than 48 hours.

Lucas County Extension Educator Amy Stone was the April guest presenter. Amy discussed all different types and how to properly plant and care for pollinator trees. Discussed also how 2 basswood trees can outproduce 1 acre of clover. BeeSmart Pollinator Gardener app is a useful tools to help with choosing different plants for your pollinators.

John Grafton gave his presentation on how to prepare for a honey judging at the May meeting. He explained what judges are looking for and how to prepare for an award winning presentation.

There was a ground breaking ceremony at the training facility on May 11th. Several media sources, Commissioners, Mayor, Board Members, sponsors and beekeepers will be attending.

June’s meeting started with discussion mite counts, alcohol washes and treatments after mite counts and rolled into talk of small hive beetle and preparing traps for them. Hive beetles are looking for pollen.

Vinyl fencing installation at the apiary is scheduled for the weekend of June 15th. Planning a honey warmer build.

BSBA plans on having booths at: Woodland & Wildlife Family Festival June 23, Defiance Riverfest June 24 & 25, Defiance balloon Fest August 4th, Paulding County Fair, Pontiac Park June 23rd, Montpelier Balloon Fest July 21.

Guest speaker Joe Pristash from the Mighty Mite Killer. Joe discuss how the Mighty Mite Killer worked on varroa mite (Continued on page 42)
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Ashtabula County Beekeepers did a presentation on the importance of Honey Bees and pollination of our food crops again this year at Ag Day which was held May 11, 2018. Approximately 1000, first graders attended and participated in the event. ACBA also provided a presentation for all the 6th graders at Ashtabula City Schools in May and will do 2 presentations at Ashtabula County Public Libraries in June.

The club held its annual Field Day on June 2nd. There was a lot of fun, learning, and of course plenty of food! Rick Becker of Heritage Farm and Apiary demonstrated a hive inspection, alcohol wash to test for varroa mites and answered participants questions. Terry & Jennifer Sickafuse demonstrated how to treat for mites with oxalic acid vapor.

Our next meeting is June 23. Peggy Garnes, OSBA Traveling Speaker will present “Sustainable Beekeeping: Nucs.” Check out our Facebook page for upcoming events.

Summit County Beekeepers have been having a busy, exciting, and fun Spring thus far. We have helped many of our recent January 2018 new beekeeper class attendee’s set-up their hives for the first time. How exciting it is to be a part of these new and exciting days of being a new beekeeper! Our members have visited outside apiary's to help those in need in finding the queen, inspecting, as well as good techniques to consider when inside the hive.

The SCBA was gifted with an anonymous donation of swarm boxes that have been provided to various youth members to catch, in hopes, of their very first swarm. Also, this anonymous donor gifted two young and new beekeepers their very own nuc of bees! This is ever exciting times to see our members work together with joy and closeness! We continue to offer wonderful educational speakers for our members. OSBA Traveling Speaker, Peggy Games, spoke at our April 2018 meeting on the subject of Sustainable Beekeeping Management Using Nucs, and Kim Flottum will be our June speaker on the subject of Common Sense Natural Beekeeping. Many new programs at our training apiary have been conducted and future meetings planned for our membership. We have had many interesting things happening in our area of NE Ohio with black bear sightings and some of our members having damage to hives. We helped disperse information of protecting apiary's from bears with the helpful advice from Geoff Westerfield - Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor, Human-Wildlife Conflict / Private Lands Management of ODNR Division of Wildlife.

We have improved our email communication to our members as well as remain current with our blog, Facebook and social media outreach. Our members are active in speaking to community adult and children's groups to educate all there is about bees. Looking forward to new bee days ahead!

The Geauga County Beekeepers Association recently had their field day for all paid members and the featured speaker was Joseph Kovaleski from Black Eyed Bee farm. He spoke about the life cycle of Varroa mites and how to deal with small hive beetles. His talk was extremely informative and everybody in the audience learned a lot on how to deal with the little creatures. Afterwards, there were demonstrations on how to install hives, Queen identification, Disease identification and treatment, and top bar management. Lunch was provided by one of the local restaurants and they day ended with a question and answer period followed by a raffle of many prizes. Everyone went home knowing more then when they came.

June 24 was the next meeting at Big Creek park starting at 12 noon. Located at Maple Groove shelter, 9160 Robinson Rd., Chardon, OH 44024. We will be talking about how to sell your products and Treating Hives for mites.

Lake County Beekeepers held a Basic Beekeeping Class in April.
Trumbull County Beekeepers hosted Melanie Seal on the topic of Propolis, and OSBA Traveling Speaker Joseph Kovaleski on the topic of Sustainable Beekeeping Using Nucs.

Portage County Beekeepers are keeping club members busy with Hive Install Workshops, Spring Field Day, and a Mead Workshop.

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers held its annual field day on Saturday May 19th at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Joyce Bee Barn and Apiary, with 79 participants ranging in age from 6-90 yrs.

The beautiful day started with a presentation from their Youth Grant recipient Leo Schirokauer. Leo Schirokauer is a junior at Shaker Heights High School who started keeping when he was twelve years old. He received an honorable mention in the semi-finals of the 2017 USA Biology Olympiad, and is the recipient of the 2018 Rochester Institute of Technology Innovation & Creativity Award. His research project involves a major bee disease. He was joined at field day by his parents and sister. Stay tuned for updates on his research.

Joe Pristash (www.beehivethermalindustries.com) Ohio rep, from Bee Hive Thermal Industries demonstrated the Mighty Mite Killer on a hive provided by club member Rick Moranz. Peggy Garnes discussed Nosema and provided microscopes so beekeepers could conduct Nosema smears with bees they had collected from their own overwintered hives.

The day included an inspection of a newly installed package hive for new and experienced beekeepers reviewing the comb development, brood pattern and queen behavior. Participants were able to see the queen and how the bees interacted with her. This package is doing quite well and this was a great opportunity for new beekeepers to see how a package hive should be progressing at this point in the year.

Members split an overwintered hive and discussed new queen introduction.

Club member Rick Moranz showed beekeepers how to make a simple uncapping tank out of Rubbermaid tubs and screening. Several were made and are being raffled off to members at upcoming meetings. He also did a honey extraction demonstration for the backyard beekeeper. We ended the day with a fun queen-marking contest using drones.

GCBA is grateful to the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds for the use of the Joyce Bee Barn and Apiary for this fun filled day.

Lorain County Beekeepers introduced 110 new beekeepers into our area after completing the beginning beekeeping classes in March, teaming up with the North Ridgeville STEM program with 8 students and their instructor joining our beginners classes. We just finished our 24th Annual Field Day event with our largest turnout, 250 attendees. Tom Nolan was the guest speaker educating all of us on the life cycles of varroa mites and how to use Mite Away to discourage their survival rates. During the July members meeting we encouraged our new beekeepers to enter honey into the upcoming fair in August. We discussed how to prepare honey for fair judging, along with reviewing the seller’s rules and quality inspection of products for sale. We are looking forward to a great Lorain County Fair showing in August.

Medina County Beekeepers Medina Beekeepers have been busy with assisting newbees with package and nuc installations, managing their new bees and getting everyone to the monthly meetings. We have been fortunate to have Dave Noble talk on Hive Dynamics, Shelia St. Clair on Making Creamed Honey and OSBA Traveling Speaker Joe Kovaleski presented the Sustainable Beekeeping Using Nucs at the June meeting. A special event on Sunday, June 24th 11 am - 2 pm. - *Special Membership Event* Members enjoyed a tour of Stan Hywet Hall, their beautiful gardens, and butterfly house. Club member and apiarist, Laura Urban, opened the property's hives for viewing. Veils were mandatory. The next meetings will involve the prep

(Continued on page 46)
Greene County Beekeepers Association: meetings continue to fill the meeting space to capacity thanks to great monthly guest speakers including OSBA Traveling Speaker Tim Arheit, Randy Smith and Bill Starrett. This year the club coordinated their first field day at Russ Nature Preserve. Educational breakout sessions, delicious food, and fellowship filled the day.

Butler County Beekeepers continues extending the use of its outdoor apiary classroom. This project started with a four “experimental” colonies isolated behind a bee fence which allows for bee suit free demonstrations. This summer benches that can convert into tables together with “solar shade sails” for comfort have been added.

Up and coming workshops to include Do-It-Yourself (DIY) queen markers, DIY powdered sugar shakers, SHB traps, nosema testing, and various queen replacement options.

BCBA continues its public education program with displays at the Oxford 4th of July Fest and Butler County Fair.

Construction began of a “bee barn” located at Miami University’s Ecology Research Center. The facility will be multipurpose handling equipment storage, honey extractions, and various educational activities.

Keeping with our “Better Beekeeping by Reducing Barriers” theme we are making bee nutritional feed, mite treatments, extractors, solar wax melters, hive movers, and swarm collectors available. BCBA initiated a local queen bank which provides queens to BCBA members on demand.

Warren County Beekeepers hosted guest speakers including OSBA Traveling Speaker Tim Arheit, and Deb Wiater. Deb discussed Essential Oils and Beekeeping.

Plans continue for another fun and exciting Fall Swap Meet in September.

Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association has been embarking upon a self-sustainability program for the last couple of years. They have several Club members that are now educated and continuing their education in queen rearing, grafting, making splits, collecting swarms and now selling nucs. This has not only been an advantage to the Club, but it is affecting the genetics and overwintering success in our area.

A poll was taken at the last meeting about the number of colonies our Club went into the winter with and how many colonies survived as of May 8th, our last meeting. The members went into the winter with 162 colonies and came out of the winter with a 43% loss and this loss did not include one member, who went into the winter with 80 colonies, who only had a 20% loss! In discussion, they attribute this partially to overwintering practices which include hive wrapping, feeding and possibly, most importantly, local genetics and grooming behavior.

GGLBA is still working with our local community in the establishment of a pollinator habitat and bee yard. The grant that was applied for was not awarded however, having taken the OSBA Grant Presentation, they have a Grant Committee that will continue looking for and applying for new grants. Beekeeping is vogue topic of conversation and as beekeepers we can use this to our advantage in promoting a healthy environment for our girls and us.

As of the writing of this news, July 14th will be the Club Field Day and is to be held at their own bee yard. The yard is on the property of another local Club and the two clubs will be working together to promote healthy environ-
Association Corner: Crossroads

Tri-County Beekeepers hosted speakers Jamie Walters on the topic of Spring Buildup, Nina Bagley on Winter Preparation. And Issac Barnes on Pollen Collection. The club is working on their July Picnic. The club had 75 entries in the recipe contest, which are being put into a book.

Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers guest speaker was Jay McElroy from USDA, with a presentation on Pollinator Programs. For the May meeting, we hosted OSBA Traveling Speaker Bob Hooker presenting Sustainable Beekeeping Using Nucs. Phil Dobeck and Todd Clipner provided the club with a Honey Extraction demonstration for the June meeting.

Coshocton County Beekeepers has been fortunate to have several young people learning about beekeeping this year. The club supported them with training, advice, and backup as they have given demonstrations. Our beekeeping group suffered significant hive losses over the winter and early spring. An early meeting focused on safely catching swarms and performing cut outs in preparation for the swarm season. As June draws to a close and there have been no swarm calls those looking for inexpensive swarms for rebuilding are disappointed. The club hives were able to overcome an early attack of EFB and grow strong enough to demonstrate how to balance hive populations and make a split.

Tuscarawas Beekeepers wants to let everyone know that their guest speaker in August is Dr. Jim Tew.

Columbiana Mahoning Beekeepers meets the third Sunday from January through October. Each year they participate in the Canfield Fair. The club members Bruce and Andrea held a Creamed Honey Clinic. Club member Don Kovach held Field Days in April and May.

Stark County Beekeepers participated in a Lotions and Potions Workshop along with a Spring Field Day. They are looking forward to another great year at the Stark County Fair.

Harrison County Beekeepers is hosting Kirsten Traynor, editor of American Bee Journal, on July 21 at the Scio U.M. Church in Scio, OH. Registration required.

Guest speakers continue to draw in a full crowd at each meeting, from OSBA Traveling Speaker Tim Arheit to Tonya Brown (see picture), whose real-time demonstration of soap making impressed the audience.

The club is working on the annual Honey Harvest event for August.

Association Corner Top of Ohio (Continued from page 38)

mental issues and education of beekeeping needs and practices. The day will have three sessions of the topics; general hive inspection, varroa mite monitoring and treatment, and making splits. Equipment and supplies will be available for purchase from Honey Run Apiaries. July is also County Fair season and GGLBA is currently scheduled to attend and give presentations on beekeeping. Several Club members have signed up to present the topics of beekeeping equipment, honeybee biology and products of the hive.

August is also a Fair month with County and State fairs. Many have already signed up to attend and help out at the Bee Pavilion. The State Fair is a fun day to do what we as beekeepers do best and that is talk to people about our passion! Of the three years that we have been doing the State Fair everyone has come away with a very positive experience. The State Fair is also the time of 4H judging for Beekeeping Projects. OSBA will again be represented by a Club member for this judging event.

September, having not yet been scheduled, will be leading the membership into the fall and winter with proactive discussions and talks on the upcoming preparations for the season. This is critical to the new beekeepers for their success in overwintering their colonies. It is also this time of year that varroa mite treatments should be made as this is the time mite populations explode.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association monthly pre-meeting sessions at the club’s apiary at Brukner Nature center continue to help educate new-bees. These hands-on sessions are led by the apiary management team and provide participants information about activity they should be seeing and doing in their own apiaries.
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**Association Corner: Heart of Ohio**

**East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association** guest speakers this quarter included Dawn Combs, Will Merrill and Jim Tew.

**Knox County Beekeepers Association** members enjoyed a potluck picnic in June. Their guest speaker in April, Dave Noble, talked about inspecting dead-outs for varroa.

**Morrow County Beekeepers Association** meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Ag Center, Cooperative Extension Service, Small Room (South of Mt. Gilead on the west side of SR 42) at 6:30 p.m.

**Central Ohio Beekeepers Association** participated the Pollinator Palooza in Columbus in June.

**Scioto Valley Beekeepers Association** meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Good Shepard United Methodist Church in Circleville. Roundtable discussion starts at 6:00 p.m.

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**A Day At Purdue**

Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Cooperative (HHBBC) met at Purdue University for the week of June 4-8, 2018 for the annual Instrumental Insemination Event. Seven states were represented – Indiana, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio.

Twenty-one HBBBC members assisted in the insemination event the produced 50 Queens that were distributed throughout their states. Grafts will be made off these inseminated queens and the virgins will be sent out, or open mated, then made available to beekeepers.

Krispen Given, Purdue Bee Lab, was lead in the annual event. Tim Arheit, OSBA Secretary, assisted in semen collection and inseminated queens to be sent back to Ohio. Peggy Garnes, OSBA VP, assisted in drone collection in the Purdue Bee Yards. We are looking forward to having many Purdue “Ankle Biters” available to Ohio beekeepers soon.

*Tim Arheit at work during the event*

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Maumee Valley Association Corner (Continued from page 34)

and also small hive beetles. Demonstration showed how to install and operate the system.

Upcoming events include: Henry County Fair August 9 to 16, Defiance County Fair August 18 to 25, Fulton County Fair August 31 to September 6 and Williams County Fair September 8 to 15. Check each county to see the rules and deadlines.

Chapter Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at the Defiance Extension Office at 7:00 pm
June- Of Bees and Berries!

My mother is a berry picker. Hmm. Somehow that does not convey my full meaning. My mother was born in Sault Ste. Marie (the “Soo”) Michigan near the seemingly endless steppes of wild blueberries. Picking berries is in her blood. To this very day I am convinced her national (and international) travels are timed to the local weather and berry seasons.

Local saskatoon or service berries were at peak picking in Oxford this last week. This usually and seasonally happens this or next week, but we just came off the warmest month of May in the US since the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association has been keeping records.

This warm weather has translated into an accelerated nectar (and berry) season. When did my mother drop in for a visit? Last week. Coincidence or purposeful?

Let's take a snapshot; a reality check of just where we are in this bee season as we pass the middle of June. The usual and early major nectar sources which include honeysuckle, black locust, tulip poplar et.al. are long gone. Now alfalfa, white and yellow sweet clovers, thistles, linden trees, milkweed abound, but unlike the aforementioned, ubiquitous nectar opportunities, these later varietals are spotty. Very spotty. “Location, location, location” spotty.

In my recent travels across the state I see huge flora opportunities. Again, these are very localized. You can see miles of yellow sweet clover along the interstate highways, and then nothing. This begs the question of what does your roughly 3-ish mile radius around your colony look like right now for nectar opportunities.

Some bee math: it takes approximately two million flowers to produce just one pound of honey. A typical colony in southwestern Ohio will consume around 100 pounds of honey throughout a year (not including what you want to take!). Two million multiplied by 100 translates to the bees needing over two hundred million (200,000,000) flowers just to live on. Most beekeepers are a little incredulous with these numbers so a little more math will hopefully shed some light on how this is even possible.

By way of a concrete example let's run the numbers. Recent rains have stimulated vast clover patches to pop up. Assume there are 20 white clover blossoms per square foot. There are 5,280 feet in a mile or $5280 \times 5280 = 27,878,400$ square feet in a square mile. Per the 20 blossoms per square foot this translates into about five hundred and sixty million ($557,568,000$) blossoms in a square mile of clover.

But your bees feed in a circular radius of about 3 miles around your hive. The area of a circle is $\pi$ (~3.14) times the radius squared. This means your bees can cover approximately 28.26 square miles. This translates into about fifteen billion ($15,756,871,680$) blossoms your bees have access to if they were surrounded by nothing but clover at the density of 20 blossoms per square foot.

This example is idealized, but I think you get the point. You can see how certain colonies can not only take care of their own honey needs, but also produce an extra 100-200+ pounds of excess honey in a given season. But it takes the right number of bees and the right number of flowers coming together at the right time. As a beekeeper you can help orchestrate this.

This warm weather combined with intermittent rains has the indigenous and commercial crops accelerating...good for the corn and soy beans...bad bee-keeper’s nectar crops.

Did my mother ask me about the weather and the berry crop before coming for a visit? No. Does she deliberately keep a diary of such events and then correlate this with the current, local weather (which shifts +/- 2 weeks in any given year)? I don’t think so. She has a kind of organic knack for being in the right berry place at the right picking time. However my migrating, berry picking mother does it – she does it. There are beekeeping lessons here.

To the chagrin of some seasoned beekeepers I labor at various bee meetings with my “Bee Curves” to exemplify just how soon the nectar flows will arrive as well as how short the nectar season is. There is method in my madness and I will continue to repeat that you should consider feeding/stimulating your colonies as early as possible to have your hive populations coincide with our major spring, and spring-into-summer nectar flows if you want a significant honey crop as well as stronger and healthier colonies.

Case in point: here we are in the middle of June and the larger part of our surplus honey crop has already come in. Many have already extracted their honey. Simply and boldly – our major nectar flow is over or nearly over. That’s the reality of beekeeping in Ohio and why I make all the fuss about helping your hives along in the late winter into early spring. Our largest nectar flows are relatively short...
and peak before our colony populations peak.

Migratory beekeepers (and apparently berry pickers!) know and use these inter- and intra-seasonality lessons latitudinally leapfrogging their bees from Florida to Canada making several honey crops in a season. Most of us cannot or won’t pick up our hives and move to the next rung on the latitudinal nectar flow ladder. Again, it is a fact that just as your bee populations peak; the local nectar flows wane.

What can you do? You cannot change the weather, but you likely can decide where to place your bees in your locale. You can look around your area and find better “honey holes” with appropriate forage. See corn and soybean fields for the food deserts they are. For as Moses said to the Pharaoh, “You can’t make bricks without straw”; neither can you make a honey crop without ABUNDANT nectar producing flora.

As we depart the major nectar season we enter the nutrition-dearth season, and not coincidentally we also enter the pests and diseases season. If not yet a problem – wax moths, small hive beetles, varroa mites (and their associated pathogens) are looming. Monitoring and supplemental feeding will be key here.

Now is a good time to question your queen’s viability. Did your queen perform to expectations this spring? Is she still performing or should you consider replacing her? Issues seldom get better on their own.

Is there anything else you can or should do with your hives as we come into summer? Comb wax building? Splits? Supplemental and nutritional feeding options? Treatment options? And more.

Though saskatoon berry season is over; blackberries are still to come contingent on the heat and continued rainfall. The clearest indicator I have is that my mother is still visiting.

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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.

Notify Ron Hoopes, Memorial Committee Chair at: beefarm2003@AOL.COM or cell 740.624.1683 if you have notices to provide to the newsletter.

Gertrude Rasor passed away April 5, 2018. She was an active member in the beekeeping community, past Trustee of OSBA, Secretary of the Kokosing Beekeepers Association and a member of Central Ohio Beekeepers Association.

David Wheeler passed away April 1, 2018. David was an avid beekeeper and a member of Greene County Beekeepers Association.

State Fair (Continued from page 21)

Surina form a beard (weather permitting)
- 2p – Stop in and look at the huge selection of flower and vegetable seeds available to help you start your own pollinator garden and talk to experts who can help guide your decisions.
- 4:30p-5p – Ashleigh Lemon, senior biology specialist for Scotts Miracle-Gro, “Inviting Bees to your Yard with Plants” and “Best Practices for Treating with Pesticides to Cause the Least Harm”

Sun. Aug. 5 – Visit the vendors for pure Ohio honey and hive products.
- 11a-12p – Walk with veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell through a model bee yard
- 2p – Learn from Master Gardener and beekeeper Tina Bobek the types of herbs and plants bees crave
- 3p-4p – Ask the Beekeeper.

The Bee Beard Demonstration always draws a large crowd of interested fair-goers

Association Corner Western Reserve (Continued from page 37)

for the Fair booth and our annual picnic. July is also the month members help out at The Bee Festival at the Medina County Library. There are plenty of club volunteers to talk bees to children and their parents, show off the observation hive and member, Kim Barkfelt has candle rolling for the children, too.

The Medina Bee Yard is progressing at a quick pace. Both packages are in their second, deep brood box and the Feeding Medina Hive has two honey supers on!
# 2018 OHIO STATE BEEKEEPER’S ASSOCIATION

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