Ohio Beekeeping
The Newsletter of

A Celebration of Ohio Beekeeping

OSBA Fall Conference
November 2, 2019 Plain City, OH
Invest a day in your education for a lifetime of better beekeeping

This Year’s Speakers include:

Kirsten Traynor
Dr. Reed Johnson
Erin MacGregor-Forbes
Dawn Combs
Andrew Connor
Shannon Trimboli
Jay Heselschwerdt
Planning ahead- an important task for every beekeeper and beekeeping association.

OSBA is planning ahead for the Ohio beekeeping community. Your OSBA Board Members are working in committees that will be responsible for the future of the diverse support programs that OSBA provides to beekeepers, local associations, and the general public.

Our past three Strategic Planning Meetings have made us aware that, as OSBA programs continue to grow and thrive, Tim, Michele, and I cannot continue to provide most of the administration and program support. The work and the vision needs to be delegated to the rest of the OSBA board members. Board members have formed committees to support OSBA programming. Information about these committees is on-line: www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/osba-committees/, and on page 3 of this newsletter.

The committees were provided with their own Googlegroup emails so all communication can be shared with all committee members.

The committees also have their own Dropbox to store all documents, including meeting minutes for the OSBA archive and future committee members to review.

So far the following committees have held formal meetings: Finance, 4-H, and Nomination. The Master Beekeeper Committee and New Beekeeper Outreach have meetings scheduled later this month. For purposes of transparency, the minutes to their meetings will also be available: www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/about-osba/meeting-minutes/.

You will note that some committees have few, if any members. These are programs that may not continue if we do not have any volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the OSBA committees, and helping ensure these programs continue, please visit: www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/volunteer-opportunities/

In the meantime, this past quarter, we have helped to support new clubs, provide Library grants, continued work on the November 2nd OSBA Fall Conference, and lots of other activities that help ensure the future of Ohio beekeeping.

See you at the OSBA Fall Conference!

Terry Lieberman-Smith
President, Ohio State Beekeepers
Connecting Beekeepers Across Ohio
OSBA Committees- The Future of OSBA Programs

Standing Committees:
Standing committees are formed to handle long-running tasks until such time the OSBA board determines they are no longer needed.

4-H Committee
- Jamie Walters - Chair
- Sonny Ward - Co-Chair
- Mike Doseck
- Geoff Hultgren
- Allyson May

Affiliate Program
- No committee members

New Beekeeper Outreach 2020
- Kelly Morse
- Jim Hopkins

Traveling Speaker Program 2020
- Joe Heider - Co-Chair
- Rod Pritchard
- Rick Blessing

Newsletter Committee
- Kelly Morse - For follow-up with Board Members on their reports

Conference Committee – 2020
- Peggy Garnes - Chair
- Rod Pritchard
- Sonny Ward
- Dwight Wells
- Nina Bagley

Education Committee
- Rod Prichard - Chair
- Dwight Wells
- Tim Arheit
- Jamie Walters

Master Beekeeper Committee
- Doug Stanton - Chair
- Bill Starrett
- Allyson May

Outreach Event Committee
- Peggy Garnes - Chair

Nominating Committee
- Mike Doseck - Chair
- Angel Mitchell
- Greg Bokan
- Peggy Garnes
- Michele Colopy

Fair Committee
- Nina Bagley
- David Crawford
- Dwight Wells
- Zale Maxwell
- Tina Bobek
- Todd Rodgers
- Marishka Wile

Finance Committee
- Michele Colopy - Chair
- Don Crock
- Kathi Hinckley-Vaughn
- Bob Hooker
- Kyle Kovacs

Ad-Hoc Committees:
Ad-Hoc committees are formed on an as-needed basis to complete a task and are disbanded once the task is complete.

Constitution, Bylaw Review
- Tim Arheit- Chair (he has since stepped down)
- Rod Pritchard
- Nina Bagley
- Joe Heider
- Jeanie Saum

HAS/EAS/ABF Job Description and Application Review
- Alex Zomchek - Chair
- Peggy Garnes
- Dwight Wells
- Joe Kovaleski
- Carmen Conrad
- Dwight Wilson

Note: Per the OSBA bylaws. The OSBA President is a member ex-officio of all committees.
OSBA Affiliate Program - Current Affiliates

- Ashtabula County Beekeepers
- Black Swamp Beekeepers Association
- Fairfield County Beekeepers
- Geauga County Beekeepers
- Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers
- Greene County Beekeepers
- Guernsey Noble Beekeepers
- Harrison County Beekeepers
- Lake County Beekeepers
- Maumee Valley Beekeepers
- Medina County Beekeepers
- Miami Valley Beekeepers
- Portage County Beekeepers
- Richland Area Beekeepers
- Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers
- Scioto Valley Beekeepers
- Trumbull County Beekeepers
- Tuscarawas County Beekeepers
- Warren County Ohio Beekeepers

Second Quarter Donors to OSBA
Your support is important to help OSBA provide education, outreach, services, and programs to our members and the Ohio community. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Michael Allen
Danielle Bradley
Robert Hamilton
Vicki Holthaus
Heath Kitts
Penelope LaRock
Roger T. Samaniego
Barbara Slagle
Gerald W. Zimmerman

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

Douglas Baker
Edwin Burns
Scott Stansbury
**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](http://www.oplates.com) when you renew your plates. Under specialty plates it is listed as “Ohio Beekeepers.” What will your plate say?

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**Williams Honey Bees**

**Local Mated Queens**

As one of Ohio’s largest queen producing operations, we strive for gentle-productive queens and flood our 6 mating yards with the best drones we can provide from our sustainable operation. Genetic diversity is also maintained as we bring in new genetics from some of the top breeders across the country and test them against our standards and Ohio’s mood-swinging winters.

Colonies going into winter with a young well mated queen are proven to have a better chance of surviving the winter.

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Price break for 10+ Queens

Order well in advance of your needs.

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[www.williamshoneybees.com](http://www.williamshoneybees.com)
New Club in Town

2019 is a banner year for new bee clubs in the state of Ohio. The newest club, North Central Ohio Beekeepers Association meets at the Community Christian Center in Upper Sandusky, OH. Coordinators have already started working on their club event calendar, along with their constitution and by-laws. OSBA helped spread the word through Facebook and postcard mailings to beekeepers in the area.

OSBA Meets with ODA Director Pelanda

This year, the new Director of ODA, Dorothy Pelanda, introduced herself to the public with local "meet and greets" across the state. Three beekeepers stepped up and talked during these sessions and were invited to a special meeting in Reynoldsburg.

April 24th, Maumee Beekeeper, David Veith, OSBA Regional Representative Jamie Walters, and OSBA President Terry Lieberman-Smith met with Director Dorothy Pelanda, Assistant Director, Tim Derickson, Daniel Kennedy, Plant Health, and Barbara Bloetscher, State Apiarist.

Many topics were discussed during the multi-hour session. Discussion included:

* OSBA offering to provide space in the OSBA newsletter for a column by the state apiarist as quarterly conduit of information from ODA to beekeepers

* Including the name of the beekeeper on the Apiary Certificate (this information used to be included on the certificate).

* Making the registration system more efficient by having the process on-line and allowing electronic payments. Thousands of envelopes, sheets of paper, mailing costs, and manpower could be saved by updating the process.

* Making modifications to improve to the apiary inspection program.

This was the first of many meetings that will help beekeepers and the Ohio Department of Agriculture work together to design an inspection system that will meet the needs of the growing beekeeping community.

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For Sale

8 boxes new thin foundation for comb honey
1,000 split-section boxes for comb honey
80 comb honey supers

asking $650
Contact Tony: 937.667.1420
With the 2019 season well underway, 79 of Ohio’s 88 counties have or will be appointing a deputy apiarist this year! County Apiary Inspectors (or Deputy Apiarists) are appointed and paid by the county each season to conduct inspections on behalf of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

County Apiary Inspectors are a crucial component of the Apiary Program by providing their experience and answering questions for beekeepers while conducting inspections on behalf of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

All inspectors are required to attend an annual training meeting for continuing education and updates on policies and procedures. They are provided with a notebook containing information to help with diagnoses and an Inspectors’ Training Manual. These resources help ensure that inspections are conducted professionally and are consistent with Ohio’s Apiary Regulations. Information about the Apiary Program and the County Inspectors can be found on the ODA Apiary website: https://www.agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program/

Click on “Inspection” to find the contact information for the inspectors and the Apiary Summary from 2018. Additional information including a detailed fact sheet on small hive beetle management is available on the “General Information” page.
How Can A Club Get Members, If You Post No Membership Info?

Michele Colopy

A recent review of Ohio local beekeeping association websites and Facebook pages discovered more than a dozen clubs that do not have:

- A membership form to print
- The ability to pay member dues online
- The listed amount of the annual dues
- Where to mail dues (i.e. contact info for the Treasurer and/or the club).

Digital media is often the first point of contact for prospective members. If information is difficult to find, or does not exist at all, that prospective member becomes frustrated. Clubs need to post on their website a membership form that can be printed and mailed to the Treasurer. It is important, as well, to begin to include an online payment process. Members want to pay for beginning bee classes online, as well as pay their dues online. Transferring funds from PayPal and documenting member dues payments is the same amount of work as accepting checks and going to the bank to make deposits. Below is a very basic Membership form which you are free to adapt for your club. You may want to also consider asking more information on the member form. No matter what your final membership form looks like: your beekeeping association needs to have a member form.

"Your membership application isn’t just a form, it is the gateway to your organization. So you should roll out the welcome mat for prospective members by ensuring that your application form is easy to find and complete, and is both welcoming and informative."

5 Expert Tips to Improve Your Membership Application Form

1) Is Your Membership Form Easy to Find and Complete?
2) What Information Should Be Included on a Membership Application?
3) Can the Look and Feel Make an Impact?
4) What Format – Online, Offline or Both?
5) Membership Starts When a Prospect Completes the Application

READ MORE at https://www.wildapricot.com/articles/membership-application-form
Join OSBA Today—
OSBA works 24/7 for beekeepers. Your $20 membership (less than 6 cents per day) supports activities and projects that benefit our beekeeping community.

Support the Beekeepers Voice of Ohio

OSBA Fall Conference
November 2, 2019
Plain City, OH

Great Speakers
Breakout Sessions
Vendors
Contests
Raffle Table
And more...

An educational and fun-filled day
EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

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- HIVE KITS
- BEES
- FRAMES
- MEDICATIONS
- EXTRACTORS
- FOUNDATION
- HIVE TOOLS
- AND MORE!

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- An experienced sales team that can help no matter your skill level
- Superior customer service

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Hackensack, MN • Wilkes-Barre, PA • Woodland, CA • Marshall, TX
4-H Sponsorship Winner Updates

Joshua Adler - Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Quite a bit has happened in the last few months! I have gotten two more hives, one from a nuc and one from a natural split, and I have researched a lot about bees and how to take care of them. During this project, I have learned more about the impact that bees have on our population, from the food they pollinate to the way that bees can communicate using their antennae. My entire family and I have learned so much, and are looking forward to continuing to learn more throughout this project.

A couple weeks ago, my Dad caught my attention directing me to look at our hives. When I looked outside my window, I saw one of my hives swarming! There were tons of bees gathering on the front of my hive. I naturally started freaking out - afraid that I was going to lose one of my hives! On closer inspection, we found the queen on the ground being balled up by the other bees. We saved her by scooping her up and putting her in our empty nuc box. Then, with the help of my mentor who rushed over right away, we split the swarming hive into its own separate hive. We are currently waiting for one of the queen cells in the initial hive to hatch and successfully mate (hopefully). The queen we received in the package seems to have been accepted by the new hive which appears to be thriving.

Along with the split, I have been continuing to feed all three hives through the start of summer. It has been a very time-consuming project, and I have gone through quite a few batches of sugar water and pollen patties during this process. Along the way, I have seen just a few small hive beetles, but we’ve been able to neutralize the problem for now with beetle traps. In addition to the beetle traps, we also tested for mites and luckily came out with zero in the entire batch! One issue we have not addressed yet are ants.

Overall, I’ve had a lot of fun in the past couple months experiencing many of the concepts I researched before starting this project. I’m grateful that I have a mentor to teach me throughout this project because without him I would be relying solely on video scenarios that I watched before I got my bees. It has been amazing watching the bees on their orientation flights, and then just sitting by the front of the hives and watching them come and go. Beekeeping has become more than just a project; it has become a hobby.

Emma Smith - Northwest Ohio Beekeepers

It has been great to learn more about Beekeeping through the experience of keeping my own hives! I am ready for the weather to get better so they have a chance to collect more pollen and turn it into honey! :)

Abigail Butcher - Ashtabula Beekeepers Association

This past three months have been very eventful for both me and my bees. I found a location for my bees and set up both of my hives, they have access to water and plenty plants to forage off of. I also picked up my bees and successfully put them into their hives, and they are doing well while being very active and busy each and every day. I also attended my county’s beekeeping field day where we learned many things such as, growing queens and queens cells, putting on

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4-H Sponsorship Winner Updates

Sophie Wood - Portage County Beekeepers Association

As my beekeeping journey continues, I have continued to advance my knowledge of beekeeping and have started with the bees. I have received my bees in the last week of April, and have been inspecting them once a week since then. In one hive, the queen was not out of her cage in a week, so I had to manually release the queen. Luckily, the queen adapted well and is now laying healthily. In both hives, there are mainly capped worker brood, some larvae, a few eggs, and a bit of capped drone brood. I also have some nectar and pollen. In both hives, I have stopped feeding sugar syrup because as of my most recent inspection, both gallon buckets were full after two weeks went by.

I have also attended a field day with the Portage County Beekeepers Association. The club has two hives and is in the process of splitting one of them so we went through a full inspection and a mite check for both hives. I learned what the visual difference between capped honey, nectar, and pollen are. I learned how to conduct full hive inspections as well as mite checks. Since March, I have learned very much and am greatly enjoying beekeeping and am ready to dive in even more!

This is a picture of me during the club hive inspection.

Amber Averwater - Brown County Beekeepers Association

Hello fellow beekeeping friends! These past few months have been absolutely amazing! I do not have my bees yet, I know this will be very controversial for many of you. I bought a nuc from a local seller, and they like to hold on to their bees for as long as possible to make sure the hive is strong and healthy. I knew going into buying them that I would get them late in the year. I preferred to buy local bees over getting a package that comes from Georgia with bees that have an unfamiliar queen. Buying local bees means that I have bees that are used to this crazy weather, and oh how its been crazy! I went over to the man’s house that I’m buying my bees from and he has the most docile bees I’ve ever seen. He didn’t have a bee suit on and neither did I. We were in the middle of 50 beehives and he was opening up hives and pulling out frames and they didn’t even care. I will most likely have to feed them, but I’ve been reassured many times that they will make it through the winter.

A couple weeks ago my bee mentor, Shelley, called me and said she had a swarm so we quickly drove over to her house and got to work. She demonstrated how we were going to put the swarm trap under the cluster and do one big shake and hope the queen falls in. After doing so we transferred the bees into a hive and sat back and watched. Things went well because we saw a couple of the bees outside the hive with their butts in the air fanning the pheromone that signals to everybody “we’re here”! We both waited and watched and some were coming out of the hive, my mentor said that they were doing an orientation flight. And then more came, and then more until the whole sky was full of bees. Unfortunately, they swarmed onto a branch in a tree about 20 feet in the air. Our second attempt to collect the swarm was eventful as they were so high in the tree. We tried to gather them 4 or 5 times until they re-swarmed to a tree even higher. They eventually left the next day after being rained on. I will definitely never forget this day!

I will be getting my bees on the 18th and I’ve never been more happy and excited. THANK YOU to everyone who has ever contributed to this new chapter in my life.
Caiden Davis- Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association

The last few months, my hives have become much more active, and it’s getting very exciting. On April 24, I got to install my bees so I have had them for over a month now. I have three hives, so for record purposes (and for fun) I decided to name my hives.

Buckeye, one of my eight frame hives has grown to be the strongest so far, and it has drawn out comb in every single box I put on top of it. My mentor and I figured out that the queen is a mixed breed when we saw that the bees we took out of it were failing which disappointed us.

Clover my other eight frame hive is growing pretty strong even though it has a younger Buckfast queen. It is already in the fourth of its five boxes so it is going to run out of boxes soon as well.

Bulldog is a ten frame hive, which I received from my mentor. It also has a Buckfast queen and surprisingly enough, this hive is already moving into a super, which makes me really happy.

My plan for this year is to get honey and as much comb drawn out as possible. Since Buckeye is growing so strong, I had to purchase more deeps for this hive so it can continue to grow.

Nick Furbee - Central Ohio Beekeepers Association

Since my first update in the last quarter I have done many things such as catching a swarm of bees, checking my hives and even fixing a problem that I had on Easter morning, twice! Also, I had to determine the location for my new hives based on the land and resources around it and gave a presentation on parts of the hive to my 4-H club. I have had a very busy few months!

What I meant by catching a swarm of bees is my mom has 6 hives of bees so when she was at work one day one of her beehives had a swarm. I had to catch the swarm off of a fence post before the bees flew off and we lost them all. I was successful and added another hive to our apiary, my mom was impressed when she came home that day. Later that night my mom and I moved it back to the south side of the cow barn where the rest of our beehives are. The bees are still there living at this time.

On Easter morning we had a cow get out and knock over beehive A. I suited up and put my beehive back together. Later that day a different cow got out and knocked over the same beehive but at least it only knocked of the top box (the quilt box) this time so I put it back together, again! A week or two later we were going to let the cows in the same pasture as the bees. Since the bees are in only one section of the pen we drove some t-posts into the ground and wired up some cattle panels so the cattle wouldn’t be able to get to close to any of the bee hives.

The location of my hives is with their entrance facing south. This gives them a wind break of the barn from the north and west - we have a lot of wind blowing across our flat farm. A cow pasture with some wild flowers is to the south so I think my hive location is great because the bees have lots of flowers at their front door and we plant 50 acres of cover crops each year, many of which produce flowers. My hives are now protected from large animals from knocking them over too, a problem I never thought I would have to deal with. But the one downside is that bees from my mom’s hives that are next to them could steal honey from my hives.

At one of my 4-H meetings I did a presentation on the parts of the beehive and talked about how the beehive and colony works. I described the order of the hive pieces and how the hives are assembled and why different parts are used. I didn’t think the club members and advisors would ever stop asking me questions about the hives and bees!

In conclusion, I have had a lot of great new experiences in the past 6 months and I feel very honored to have received this scholarship. I look forward to further educating myself and others with the OSBA scholarship the remainder of the year as well as growing my knowledge and apiary in the years to come.
Mystery Pesticide Kills

Current pesticide concerns are largely focused on the neonicotinoids. However, many of their predecessors such as the organophosphates and pyrethroids were much more toxic, and had the potential to wreck far more havoc than do the neonics. As evidence, this article describes a series of pesticide events that impacted two of my bee yards over a nine year period starting in 1987 and running through 1995. The frustration that results from the inability to determine the source of a pesticide issue and possibly prevent a recurrence is downright irritating. Hopefully by relating the problems I encountered, other beekeepers will be able to better understand or solve similar issues affecting their operations.

The bee yards in question were located on a general north/south line and were almost exactly one mile apart. The properties were owned by a father and son respectively. For descriptive purposes I'll reference them as the north and south yards. The south yard was established in 1976, a couple of years after my entry into beekeeping. The north yard was added a couple of years later once I started to expand my small commercial operation. While reviewing my old record books in preparation for this article, I rediscovered a long forgotten statistic. Over their roughly twenty year existence, the honey crops for both locations consistently ranked in the top twenty percentile. Keep that thought in mind, it's one of the more interesting peculiarities of this narrative.

The Monsanto herbicide Roundup also plays an integral part in the story. I realize that Roundup is currently at or near the top of the environmental hit list. However, from my perspective, Roundup is a huge work and time saver for any beekeeper operating multiple outyards in a temperate environment. The two beekeeping aggravations that irritate me most are long grass in the bee yard, and wet feet as a result of the long grass! Roundup eliminates both of those problems. Obviously, grass issues are more prevalent in full sun locations and in wet years. In that regard the north yard was a worst case scenario. Located on the crest of a small hill it was in full sun throughout the day. At one time the hillside was probably a hay field; as a result, the grass grew excessively thick. The south yard was located along the back edge of a small sheep pasture. The land behind fell away some 25-30 feet to a small creek. A line of large cherry trees kept the yard shaded from about 1:00 o'clock on. Between the shade and the sheep there wasn't any need for Roundup. And yes, the sheep would graze right up to the hive entrances.

My normal Roundup routine was to spray sometime in early to mid May, depending on temperature and rain-

fall conditions. I would usually spray a second time in late July or early August, once new growth reached 2-3 inches in height. In dry years I might only spray once, depending, I rarely sprayed after mid-August as I wanted the grass to recover prior to the onset of cold weather. Otherwise, the bare yards would become a slippery quagmire the following spring. In addition to grass control, Roundup also helped prevent unnecessary stinging incidents. No matter how careful you are, weed eaters in a bee yard can easily become public enemy number one.

The main honey flow in this area usually begins around the first of June and runs through the first week of July. In general, the spray kills would appear just as the main honey flow was ending. They exhibited a very consistent pattern, although they didn't occur every year. They never occurred prior to June 2nd and only twice did the initial kills occur later than July 10th. The problem started in 1987, initially only affecting the north yard. The south yard didn't experience any issues prior to 1990. By 1993, the damage to both yards had become severe. In addition, the last two years, 1994 and 1995, featured a second kill 7-10 days later.

Due to easy access, the first signs of trouble were normally detected in the north yard, usually sight unseen! (The north yard kills were always more severe than those in the south yard. That's a clear indication the spray source was closer to this yard.) These colonies faced due north and had good wind protection on all sides. The access drive, a gas well road, entered from the east and crossed in front of and downwind from the bees. In the heat of July, as I drove up the drive, I could smell the dead bees before the colonies came into view. And smell they did! It was the exact same odor that attends a road kill after a few days in the sun. Because of Roundup, the yard would be devoid of grass save for varying amounts of dried-out stubble. As a result, the catastrophe became instantly visible. Every colony would exhibit the exact same pattern. A fan shaped mass of dead bees would extend and widen outward roughly three feet from the entrance, always heading in a northeasterly direction. With cupped hands, I could easily scoop-up a pint or more of dead bees anywhere within the fan shaped pattern, and that applied to any of the yard's fourteen colonies! It was sickening! Interestingly enough, there were never wiggling or crawling bees. Nor apparently had there been any wiggling or crawling; the fan shaped pattern looked as though it had been laid out on an architectural drawing board, so straight and uniform were the edge lines. And as best I can remember, none of the dead bees appeared to be carrying pollen. Try as I may, I was

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Mystery Pesticide Kills (Continued from page 14)

never present when the undertaker bees were hauling out the cadavers. It must have been a rather quick affair. The bees that made it back home must have died shortly thereafter, forcing the undertakers to shift into high gear. I started carrying a camera in anticipation, but with twenty plus yards to attend I didn't have the time to visit on a daily basis, hence no photos.

What about economic damage? This is where the story gets real interesting. You would think that after repeated losses I would relocate the two yards. Normally that would be a no-brainer, but in this case there wasn’t any need. From a strictly monetary standpoint there wasn’t an economic loss. The crop was always in the supers prior to the onset of the kills. Nor was there any brood damage, queen loss, or abnormal losses the following winter. (On two occasions I removed and replaced the mostly full supers in order to check the broodnest immediately after the damage was discovered) Granted the bee populations took a heck of a beating, but by the first of September everything had pretty much returned to normal. The disaster of July became nothing but a distant memory.

The first sign of spray damage occurred in the north yard in 1987. Initially I ignored it, reasoning that it was nothing more than a freak anomaly. The scene repeated itself again in 1989. Again, I took no action. When both yards became victims in 1990, I decided I had better do a little investigating. The father and son property owners had lived in the area all their lives so I started there. Neither could shed any light on the problem, nor did they know anyone who could, so I dropped the matter. There weren't any issues in 1991 or 1992 so I assumed the problem was over. Wrong! Both locations suffered severe losses in 1993. Even though only the field bees were affected, I decided I had better dig a little deeper. Perhaps next time the chemical makeup would change and the colonies would be wiped out!

The area surrounding these two bee yards was anything but agricultural. A few sheep, some goats, perhaps a steer or two, that was the nature of the farming in the area. It's still that way today. The only two agricultural entities within flying distance were a fruit farm and a Christmas tree farm. The fruit farm was roughly a mile west of the north yard and about a mile and a third northwest of the south yard. The Christmas tree farm was roughly a third of a mile east of the north yard and roughly a mile north of the south yard. My initial reaction was to eliminate both from consideration. The Christmas tree farm was easily viewed from a nearby side road, and it looked quite benign. Both trees and property were meticulously maintained, and I had never observed any type of spray activity. The fruit farm was one of several in the local area. Having worked on a fruit farm during my teen and early adult years, I was very familiar with this form of agriculture. Plus I'd kept bees on or near fruit farms since the onset of my beekeeping career. As a result, I never considered the fruit farm to be the source of the problem.

My first action was to drive the back roads looking for the unexpected. Perhaps there was a hidden sweet corn or vegetable grower? I found absolutely nothing. My next step was to contact the township road department to see if they were doing any roadside or mosquito spraying. (While common in some local municipalities, ground fogging for mosquitos is not generally practiced in rural areas) The township secretary laughed as I made my inquiry, "We barely have enough money to maintain the roads, spraying for anything is out of the question", she responded. I briefly considered vandalism, but that didn’t make any sense. The south yard was fenced, and the only access was through gates adjacent to the property owner's home. The similarity of the kills also ruled out vandalism. The dead bee pattern for every colony was identical, every year!

I was now between a rock and a hard place, so I decided to contact both the fruit farm and the Christmas tree farm. The fruit farm proprietor was out of town on other business, so his wife acted as the go-between. She stated through her husband, that we’re not doing anything different than any of the other local fruit growers. That was exactly the answer I had anticipated. It took some time to locate the Christmas tree farm proprietor. I wasn’t exactly sure where he lived, and I didn't want to randomly start knocking on doors. I eventually found him spraying Roundup along a fence line on the aforementioned side road. I explained my dilemma, all the while trying not to sound accusatory. At the time he was one of the township trustees, so he handled my inquiry with ease. He stated, "I don't do much spraying. When I do it's more likely to be fungicides than insecticides, but never anything that time of year". A few months ago, I had an opportunity to speak with a man who worked on the Christmas tree farm during his teen years. I explained the situation in detail. His immediate comment was that he didn't ever remember any insecticide spraying; he couldn't recall there was any need.

My last step was to contact a lab (located through an American Bee Journal advertisement) to see if they might be able determine the chemical(s) involved via a dead bee analysis. The technician went into great detail on how to collect, prepare, and ship the sample. However, there were a couple of cautions. First of all, I would have to provide information as to the general class of chemicals involved. Apparently, they weren't able to do broad spectrum analysis. Secondly, even if I could provide that information, there was only a 50 percent chance they would be able to pinpoint the exact chemical involved. The kicker was the cost, three to four hundred dollars, whether they were successful or not. I decided to pass. So there you have it. I spent (Continued on page 16)
Editors Note: I would like to thank Roy Hendrickson for his many articles for the OSBA Newsletter, since 2012, that have helped to educate the Ohio beekeeping community. He is now focusing on other creative outlets.

Thank You Roy.

Mystery Pesticide Kills (Continued from page 15)

a lot of time and effort and found out absolutely nothing, not even a hint as to the source or type of spray involved.

To complete the story, the south yard was abandoned at the end of the 1995 season. The property owner had decided to remove the large cherry trees under which the bees resided. Since the yard was somewhat difficult to access, coupled with the periodic pesticide issue, I decided it would be in my best interest to seek greener pastures. The north yard was abandoned in early 1997. The land owner had passed several years earlier and the family had finally decided to sell the property. Even though there weren't any spray issues in 1996 I decided enough was enough. On the spur of the moment, I moved the bees out on a cold, rainy evening in mid-May.

Fast forward to the present, outside of a few new hou-
es, the area is much the same as it was 25-30 years ago. Both the fruit farm and the Christmas tree farm are still in operation, albeit under different management. I occasionally pass through the area, always mindful of the long ago problems. The thing that has always puzzled me the most was how could so many bees, from so many different colonies, get into so much trouble, in such a small area as was encompassed by either the fruit farm or the Christmas tree farm? My final conclusion was, and still is, they couldn't. The source of the spray had to have come from an entity I was totally unfamiliar with.

Caiden Davis (Continued from page 13)

also gone out with my mentor, Dwight Wilson, to do beekeeping. I have learned many things just from being around him including how and when to stop feeding the bees, and learning about swarms and their biology. I plan to keep working with him throughout the season.

I have also finished the class for my club the Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association (NWOBA) learning many things from the meetings in that club including: how to do small scale queen rearing, and pollen trapping and how to do it.

I am really enjoying this year so far, but one thing I hope is that the rain slows some so that the major honey flows can begin.

Abigail Butcher (Continued from page 11)

supers, inspecting a dead out and much more. Recently, we had a talker come to our club to tell us how to raise queens and catch a swarm. I also took my speech, "The Bee Movie" to our county public speaking contest and won, now I'm on my way to state with it. The speech is about the basic tools you'll need to start bee keeping. Since I won at county I will be taking my speech to the state fair to present it there.

I've been caring for my hives and inspecting them on a schedule. They are very active and continue to amaze me every single time that I work with them! I'm also getting more comfortable with them, as they are me. So all and all the past few months have held many great things for both me and my bees, till next time!
The lines on our skin hint at our age. Our backs ache, our knees creak and every morning we take that first step out of bed unsure if our legs will hold, but they do.

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Beekeeping - Enrichment for All Ages

Kelly J. Morse

In the fictitious world of Sherlock Holmes Sir Arthur Conan Doyle made his famous character a beekeeper upon his choosing to go into retirement, even penning a book by Holmes called *Practical Handbook of Bee Culture, with Some Observations upon the Segregation of the Queen*. No wonder he chose beekeeping for Holmes, the intricacies and the science of beekeeping fascinate us all and the mysteries of bee behavior continue to puzzle the most formidable minds.

It is for these reasons that many elder care organizations and communities are also engaging in activity involving the honeybee. It provides a cross generational opportunity for interaction that stimulates conversation surrounding ecology, management practices and in many cases personal family history. The fruits of the endeavor may include beeswax that can be utilized in various craft projects such as candle making or encaustic painting. There are meditative benefits as well, since even slowly paced breathing is recommended during hive inspection to minimize the perceived threat.

Brown County Beekeeper Gary Keuffer responded to some local requests for information at The New England Club in Cincinnati and SEM Haven in Milford, Ohio by giving presentations that included equipment demonstrations to the residents. Great things can start from humble beginnings. Amy Mullins, Activity Director for Assisted Living at SEM and the residents at Kugler Woods Assisted Living have started a club called “Bloom Where You Are Planted” dedicated to making the world a better place. The club, over the past couple of years, has been working on a “bee” project. The club started their own backyard beehive and is currently devoted to the upkeep and proliferation of the hive. The club has raised enough money to fund a second and third hive! No matter where a person is in life, he or she always has the ability to positively affect the surrounding world, whether it takes the form of community volunteer work, helping to preserve the environment, or simply helping take care of others who are in need.

Bees are just the beginning - their next goal is to help a local orphanage by making sure each child receives a gift for Christmas. Club members are blooming bright and strong, and are truly working to make a difference in the world.

OSBA Elections: November 2, 2019

This year OSBA members will be electing President, Treasurer, and 3 Regional Directors. Regional Director slots, with three year positions, to be voted on are:

**Erie Basin** which covers the following counties: Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Wood, Wyandot

**Top of Ohio** which covers the following counties: Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Shelby, Union

**Maumee Valley** which covers the following counties: Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams


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, 2019.
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. When you shop at Amazon.com, for any item, using the following link, Amazon will make a donation 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 will all your friends and family and raise even more money to support the next generation of beekeepers.

http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/amazon

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

Shopping at your neighborhood Kroger while donating to OSBA—food for you means funds for the beekeeping community!

OSBA is part of the Kroger Community Rewards Program. When you register your Kroger Plus Card, each time you shop for groceries and use your Kroger Plus Card, OSBA automatically earns a Kroger Rewards donation. For more information: https://www.kroger.com/topic/community-rewards-9. Type in “Ohio State Beekeepers” when it asks the donation group and designate OSBA as your recipient of Kroger Community Rewards.

Save The Honey Bee Stickers

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What is OSBA

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

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

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Contact president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org to schedule a presentation.

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Affiliate Program
- Ohio Honey Bee Research Grant
- Beekeeping Library Grant for Underserved Populations
- OSBA Pavilion at the State Fair
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Master Beekeeper Program
- Annual State Conference
- Specialty Classes/Workshops
- State Advocacy for Ohio’s Beekeepers
- Website www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org
- Facebook www.facebook.com/OhioStateBeekeepers/
- New Club Handbook
- Field Day Guide Zoning Ordinance
- Speaker Resource List

Affiliate Benefits
- Nonprofit status through the OSBA group exemption
- Annual reports to the IRS and Ohio Attorney General
- Directors and Officers Insurance for your Board
- Property and Liability Insurance for your bee club
- Website hosting
- Monthly OSBA Affiliate Newsletter
- OSBA Pollinator Oasis Seed packet fundraiser
- Tech Soup membership (discounted software for club)
- Discounted OSBA Traveling Speaker fees
- Affiliate club discounts to special OSBA workshops
- Fiscal sponsor for bee clubs on grant funded projects
Association Corner

Don’t see your club listed? Make sure to send your information to your local OSBA Regional Director or Regional Representative by September 15.

Kelly Morse and Jim Hopkins - Ohio Valley

Adams County Beekeepers provides amazing food and refreshments at all club meetings. Join us for informative question and answer sessions with experienced and successful beekeepers who are interested in mentoring others. ACBA Youth Scholarship winners Sam Creuier, Zach Ogden, and Daryan Rigsby provided updates on their experiences at the May meeting. They are off to a great start and we wish them a successful beekeeping year.

ACBA meetings start at 7pm every third Thursday of the month at the Bible Baptist Church on 41 in West Union. Visit: www.facebook.com/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association-214316711916893/

Highland County Beekeepers is an excellent choice for beekeepers seeking a more intimate club environment where they can get their questions answered by veteran beekeepers. Recent meeting topics included best forage trees for bees, swarm best practices as well as pollinator plants. Member Linda Rhonemus kindly provided the club with 5 clematis plants from her own garden at the May meeting as well as delicious apple walnut cake. HCBA is the only club in Ohio with it’s very own snake wrangler. Meetings are held at 7:00pm, the third Tuesday of the month at the Highland County Administration Building.

Brown County Beekeepers: have been all about education this spring. The April meeting featured Dwight Wells, OSBA Regional Director, with, “Creating Splits and Making Nucs”. The May educational program took advantage of the OSBA Traveling Speakers Program with Tim Arheit and this year’s topic of, "Hobbyist Queen-Rearing".

Various club members have participated in a number of programs to give the public an insight to beekeeping and what they can do to help all the pollinators in today’s ecosystem. On April 13th they gave a program at the Bethel, Ohio, public library on "Gardening for Pollinators". April 27th, found a number of club members throughout the day at Grant’s Farms and Greenhouses spring open house.

On May 27th the "Bees and Pollination" program was given for the second year to the kindergarten classes of the Fayetteville Public School and on May 23rd a program on "An Introduction to Beekeeping" was held for the senior residents of the New England Club in Cincinnati. On May 9th they presented a program to the Buffalo Trace Beekeepers Association in Mason County Kentucky on how to obtain "Free Bees."

On June 1st, several club members attended a "Queen Biology Workshop" at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio.

The highlight of every monthly meeting, held the second Tuesday of every month is the progress reports from the

2019 Youth Hive Winners Lance Cornwell and Michael Wright, with BCBA President Keith MacMillan

Youth Hive Scholars, Amber Averwater, Lance Cornwell and Michael Wright. Visit us at browncountybeekeepersassociation.org or https://www.facebook.com/browncountybeekeepers/?rc=p

Gallia County Beekeepers held their first club field day of 2019 on April 27th at the Gallia County Fairgrounds. Bee inspector Chris Blank demonstrated methods of splitting hives to increase your number of colonies. Participants were given instruction on caging and marking Queens as well as diagnosing and treating sick or weak hives.

Gallia club meetings are on an irregular schedule. The April 27 meeting was at the fairgrounds, but the others will be at the Gallia County Extension Office at 6pm. The club dates are as follows: June 21st, September 20th, October TBA (beginning beekeeper class), and November 8th. Learn more about GCBA on their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/2317700341608048/
Mike Doseck: Top of Ohio

Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month with the exception of July and August. July is GGLBA’s Annual Field Day and attends the Auglaize County Fair. The St. Marys Community Library holds its annual summer art program during August and GGLBA helps at the Ohio State Fair along with a demonstration at the Mercer County Fair.

The July 13th 5th Annual Field Day begins at 1:30. They will demonstrate and discuss several beekeeping jobs and skills. The “Day” will be held at the Mercer County Sportsman Club (GGLBA Club Bee Yard). On July 30th, at the Auglaize County Fair, GGLBA will hosting a beekeeping discussion at the 4-H building from about 6PM until 7PM. Several club volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.

August 2nd and 3rd GGLBA will have several volunteers at the Bee Pavilion during the Ohio State Fair. Later in August, on August 13th, the Mercer County Fair will host GGLBA for the discussion of beekeeping at the Entertainment Tent, this will be at 6PM.

September will resume the regular monthly meetings at the St. Marys Community Library. The meetings are open to the public with a starting time of 7PM.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association keeps busy with its own apiary. MVBA members meet at the beeyard before each meeting to learn about appropriate apiary tasks for the month. Preparations are underway for the annual Honey Harvest.

Allyson May/Greg Bokan: Western Reserve

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association held its annual Field Day on Saturday May 18th at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. The Keynote Speaker was Becky Masterman, the Extension Educator and Program Director from the University of Minnesota Bee Squad. The day’s events focused on the 2019 theme of: “Responsible Bee Keeping in the Urban Environment and Understanding the Healthy Hive”. The apiary activities included hive inspections and making a split. We also demonstrated the use of a follower board and honey extraction. Attendees were also invited to try their skill at drone marking. They want to thank the many volunteers and sponsors. 50-60 beekeepers attended.

In July they will have the club picnic at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds and members and their guests will learn about entering the County Fair. In August you can find them at the Cuyahoga County Fair.

The club meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Rocky River Nature Center on Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, Ohio. For more information visit: Greaterclevel-landbeekeepers.com

Geauga County Beekeepers Association ensures that beekeeping in Geauga County keeps getting better. Dave Shade has done an outstanding job on the website. Officers benefitted from the classes which they attended last year about how to manage a bee club. They had some great speakers this spring with Trumbull county farm bureau talking about how to secure federal help for spring dead outs. Two beginning bee classes were taught by Dale Olson who had a total of about 40 new beekeepers.

Geauga County Beekeepers had their successful field day May 18. A special thanks goes out to all of the officers and volunteers who helped to organize this great event. Key note speaker Jeff Griff, from Lowes green house, talked about how to have flowering plants and trees for bees all season long. It was very informative and made everyone want to buy more property just to have more flowering trees on the property. The day also included programs for beginner beekeepers. Peter Berk showed how to install a package of bees by removing 5-6 frames and installing the whole package in the space provided. Dave Patterson showed how to install bees by removing the queen cage and gently pouring the bees all over the queen and then closing the hive.

Dr. Richard Cryberg did a hive inspection and showed how the queen had begun to lay eggs. He discussed bee diseases and what to look for in a hive. He finished with showing how to do an alcohol wash for mites.

After lunch OSBA Traveling Speaker, Ron Zickefoose talked about “Monitoring for Sustainability”. It was very informative for all of the beekeepers. Dale Olson gave a talk about how to catch a swarm, build a bee vac, what a perfect swarm looks like and also provided stories about going inside of houses to retrieve swarms.

At the end of the day they had an auction for gifts donated and Rick Becker donated a nuc and a 3lb. package of bees.
**Lorain County Beekeepers Association** hosted their 25th Annual Field Day on June 1 with guest speaker Albert Robertson, Ph.D., speaking on “The Saskatraz Honey Bee Breeding Project.” Dr. Robertson discussed the establishment of the Saskatraz Honey Bee Breeding program in 2004 and advances since that time. With over 325 attendees, they were able to enjoy break-out sessions on Two Queen Systems, Simple Queen and Drone Production, How to Make Monster Colonies, Apitherapy, and My First Year in Beekeeping Classes. A big thank you to afternoon instructors – Dana Stahlman, Don Downs, Phil Bartosh, Randy Westfall, John Rose and Denzil St. Clair. We would like to thank Queen Right Colonies for hosting this event and for all their donations for door prizes and guessing games.

On June 14, the club will be honoring long-time beekeeper, Michael Gallagher, by installing the ‘Michael Gallagher Memorial Apiary’ at Life Church in Grafton, the monthly meeting place.

The next July and August members meetings will be gearing up for the Lorain County Fair, including the extracting and labeling meeting in July. Hope to see everyone there!

**Medina County Beekeepers Association** is waiting on the rain and cold to subside to continue inspections of their hives. Swarming has begun and new queens are not returning or mating well adding more frustration to the beekeeping journey.

Earth Day - MCBA was again represented at the Medina County Earth Day event at the Buffalo Creek Retreat in Seville, an event full of nature’s curiosities with lizards, snakes, turtle, spiders, and of course bees! Mike Cantrell, Laura Cantrell, and Cathy Lohse were there to answer all the children’s questions.

The club’s bee yard is struggling with ticks making field days impossible at this time. The hives are situated near the Feeding Medina Community Gardens and it’s been too wet to mow much.

MCBA is gearing up for Fair Season again with meetings, booth visits and the excitement of honey judging in the air. Fair booth clean-up day is July 15 – cleaning, scrubbing and hosing out the booth will be completed that evening followed by a short seller’s meeting and booth volunteer training. Pizza and soda will be provided.

Bee Festival 2019, July 13th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Summer is just around the corner, and so is Bee Festival 2019! Medina County Library’s 11th annual day of bee-filled family fun is held in conjunction with MCBA. Over 1,000 people are expected to attend this popular event, which will include the opening of a hive on the front lawn, crafts, activities, and entertainment for all ages.

**Summit County Beekeepers** had an active Spring with many new and exciting events for their members with regular meetings with inspirational and informative speakers. The Pollinator Palooza was scheduled for Saturday June 22 from 11am to 4pm, at the Gund Hall, Richfield Heritage Preserve. It brought great community involvement and a wide awareness to pollinators of all shapes and sizes including and especially the honey bee. (details below) An observation hive attracted many to view the bees up close and personal. They are also proud to introduce the very first SCBA logo hat. SCBA honey will be available for people to taste and purchase for their very own.

The new apiary is beautiful, and a perfect location and for members to join in and learn with hands-on bee experiences. The location is at Crown Point Ecology Center in the Richfield, Ohio area. They held the first member apiary training day on Wednesday June 12th where members learned the essentials of hive maintenance and inspection, as well as marking the queen. Many more apiary events will be scheduled throughout the Summer and Fall.

The honey house is a new and remarkable project that has been in the works for some time and is located on the property of Crown Point, same location as the apiary. The construction, with many hours and countless volunteers, has begun with a new roof and soon installment of plumbing and flooring for a beautiful space. Members will use state of the art stainless steel sink and surfaces, capping tank, honey extractor, bottling tanks, and wax melting equipment.

The goal is for members to use these resources for their honey extraction and bottling needs. Once again, the SCBA works hard to bring many great benefits to their SCBA membership!

They have had several swarm calls of which members have been responsive and successful in assisting to find the bees a new home.

The next member meeting will be held on Thursday July 25th at the Lions Lodge in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio from 7-
OSBA Fall Conference  
November 2, 2019  
Tolles Career and Technical Center

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

Registration opens the beginning of September

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My Bee Supply  
O'Keefe Electronics  
Oxavap  
Superior Bee
Dwight Wilson/Jamie Walters: Maumee Valley

Black Swamp Beekeepers Association have been quite busy with outreach programs with Paulding County Soil & Water District – Spring Family Fun Day & Park Cleanup, Defiance County Soil & Water District - 5th graders honeybee & pollinator presentations, and Defiance County Master Gardeners - YMCA Healthy Kids Day. Thank you to members; Chris & Lucy Coppes, Jamie & Dee Walters, John & Bev Gray, Keith & Nancy Drewes, Adam & Cathy McDowell, Nancy Krouse, Toni Egly, & Doug Severt for helping at these events.

The association had presentations from Roger Myers on planting pollinator plants, Dwight Wilson on Spring Build up and Hive Manipulations, and Jamie Walters on catching swarms, trap-outs, and hive placement. Coming up; Andrew & Betsy Carlin on added value hive products, Dwight Wells on feral trapping and inspecting colonies for mite biting behavior and ProMedica Hospital on sting reactions, precautions, and safety.

A 2 Day Queen Rearing Class was ran May 25/26 with over 14 students. The students grafted on first day with 11 successful cells, improving this to 32 cells on the second day. The club wishes them the best of luck on their successful journey of small scale queen rearing. Thank you to Roger Myers for his help.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized Defiance County Commissioners for the National Achievement Award for the Pollinator Sanctuary & Training Facility of Defiance County. The award honors innovative, effective county government program that strengthen serves for residence in the category of Community and Economic Development. It is the first time Defiance County has every received this national award.

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association congratulates the 23 new beekeepers that have gone through the beginner short course classes each month, January – May. Thank you to Dwight Wilson, Tim Arheit, and Jamie Walters for working with these students in; equipment construction, colony inspections, biology, pests, diseases, varroa inspection and management. Good luck to all of the students and getting their hives into Fall.

NWOBA takes the Summer off from May til August, as beekeepers are busy with their colonies. They want everyone to remember to manage your hives, inspect/manage for varroa destructor, and will resume meetings on August 27th, 2019, at 7:30pm, Pandora High School, Pandora, OH.

Maumee Valley Beekeepers had guest speaker OSBA vice president Peggy Garnes talk about "A Women's Perspective to Beekeeping" and OSBA Regional Director Nina Bagley talked about the digestive system of the honey bees. In June they had the annual summer field day and potluck meal. Our keynote speaker was OSBA Traveling Speaker Jamie Walters speaking about "Small Scale Queen Rearing". In a show of unity in the beekeeping community we invited and were joined by the other clubs of northwest Ohio for this event.

9pm. They will soon announce the speaker. Please be on the lookout for more details soon on the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/summitbeekeepers/ / Current information is available at: http://www.summitbeekeepers.com/index.html

Portage County Beekeepers continues to have a busy year. In May they held the Spring Field Day, which is open to the public, and drew several non-club members to the event. The event consisted of a hive inspection at the club apiary, a pot-luck meal, and a presentation on Bears in Northeast Ohio and how to manage your apiary for bears presented by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. This was a timely presentation as bears have damaged a few apiaries in the county this month. They are looking forward to a few upcoming workshops, building a nuc and making mead, both of which we haven’t offered in the past.

Trumbull County Beekeepers Association has been a bee club for over 30 years. In May, they installed 6 new bee hives working with the Mosquito Creek Lake Army Corp of Engineers on a new project. See article: https://businessjournaldaily.com/bee-business-buzzes-across-valley/

The club is an OSBA affiliate. Ron Zickefoose, OSBA Traveling Speaker, will present "Queen Rearing for the Hobbyist Beekeeper". We will be having a field day in July. The club is eager to make an impact in the county and help increase awareness of our favorite pollinator. If you are interested in attending out
A New Ohio Bee City USA- Village of Galena

On May 20 (World Bee Day), the Village of Galena, Ohio, unanimously passed the Xerces Society’s Bee City USA Resolution, making a commitment to help protect our honey bees, native bees and other important pollinators along with their native habitat.

The Village of Galena now proudly stands as Ohio’s 5th Bee City USA and the 84th Bee City USA nationally.

Bee City USA is a movement that is gaining momentum across the nation. Beekeepers, master gardeners and other advocates for our pollinators, wildlife and their habitats are asking their cities to adopt the Bee City USA resolution to help preserve and enhance the native habitat.

GO NATIVE. The Village of Galena’s Bee City USA Committee will work to replace and enhance public areas of non-native plantings with Ohio native species that give our pollinators the food and shelter they need to survive. The inaugural planting will take place on June 22 in celebration of National Pollinator Week. And through community outreach with social media, outings and events, the Committee will spread the word about the crucial role honey bees and other pollinators play in our lives and why choosing native Ohio plants over exotics creates a sustainable habitat vital to their survival.

As beekeeper, we have fun watching honey bees work the native flowers and head back to the hives with clean, healthy food from our own yard. While there will not be enough plants in one garden to sustain bee hives, if native plants are added to each neighborhood garden and landscape, the city becomes a pollinator oasis.

GO ORGANIC. As a Bee City USA, the leaders of the Village of Galena publicly acknowledge that pesticides are toxic to our pollinators so natural, organic control of unwanted pests is the first choice. Gardeners are urged to first identify the “pest” to see if it even needs to be killed. Only a small percentage of insects on plants are actually harmful to the plant, and many of them provide valuable food sources for birds and other beneficial insects.

GO BEE CITY USA! Why not make your city a healthier place for you and your honey bees to live?

To learn how, www.beecityusa.org. Or if you have any questions about the process, email me at lorie.armbruster@gmail.com. I’ll be happy to guide you through this most worthwhile initiative to help save our honey bees and their native habitat.

Beekeeper of the Year Award: Accepting Nominations

At our annual OSBA Fall Conference, we recognize one outstanding beekeeper that is 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 1.

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

Make extraction easy with one of our Lyson extractors! We offer multiple sizes, with capacities ranging from 2 to 88 frames, that are perfect for both the hobbyist and commercial beekeeper.

Give us a call today and we’ll help you find the best extractor for your needs.

BeeMax® Nucs

With these easy-to-handle 5 frame polystyrene nuc boxes, you can make splits, transfer colonies, or increase your apiary size! The polystyrene adds an extra layer of protection for your bees. Available with hardware and ready to use, or as a bare unit.

Api-Bioxal

Api-Bioxal is an oxalic-based mite treatment. There are multiple methods to apply treatment, including vaporization, dribble, or spray. It is more effective when your colonies are brood-free. Api-Bioxal is not for use when honey supers are present.
OSBA at the Ohio State Fair

For a complete listing, visit the OSBA website

Sun. July 28:
- 9a-5p – Visit the vendors and sample real Ohio honey and other products from the hive
- 10:30a – 11:30a – Tour the replica of a real beeyard and see how bees live in a beekeeper’s apiary
- 11:00a. – “Is it a honey bee? Or a wasp? Learn how to distinguish different types of bees.
- 2p – Learn from Master Gardener Tina Bobek how to attract pollinators to your yard with easy-to-grow plants
- 4-5p- Ask a Beekeeper. Maybe you would like to be a beekeeper?

Mon. July 29:
- 10a – See if you can identify the queen in the observation hives.
- 11a-12:30p – Take a tour of a beeyard and learn how to get started with your own hive.
- 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 and make honey smoothies with the American Beekeeping Federation queen.

Tues. July 30:
- 10a-11a – Sample different honeys from vendors and discover their flora source.
- 10a – See if you can identify the queen in the observation hives.
- 11a-12:30p – Explore OSBA’s beeyard and learn how to become a beekeeper.
- 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.
- 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of stinging insects.

Wed. July 31:
- 10a – See if you can identify the queen in the observation hives.
- 11a – 12:30p – Explore OSBA’s beeyard and learn from the honey queen and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell how to become a beekeeper.
- 1p-2p – Learn about what it takes to start a pollinator garden to attract bees and butterflies. We have the seeds!
- 1p – Learn why honey bees are such valued pollinators for our many of our food crops
- 3p – Explore a working beehive and make honey smoothies with the American Honey Queen.
- 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of bees.

Thurs. Aug. 1:
- 9a – Find out how easy it is to have your own beehive. Stop in and talk to a beekeeper about getting started.
- 11a-12:30p – Explore OSBA’s beeyard and learn how to become a beekeeper.
- 1p – 2p – Learn how to distinguish the different species of bees such as 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. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of bees.

Fri. Aug. 2
- 10a- 5p. – Representatives of local beekeeping clubs will be available to answer your question or to get you started in beekeeping.
- 10:30a – Tag along with the American Honey Queen and beekeeper Zale Maxwell and learn how to become a beekeeper.
- 11a – Learn how to make soap from Marishka Wile, a beekeeper and soap maker
- 11a – Have you ever pet a real honey bee? Today’s your chance when you visit the Sandusky River Valley beekeeping club.
- 1p – Watch a real live bee beard demonstration as beekeeper Dan Surina attracts thousands of bees around his neck to form a beard (weather permitting)
- 3p – Explore a working beehive and make honey smoothies with the American Honey Queen.
- 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of bees.

Sat. Aug. 3:
- 10a-11a – Tag along with the American Honey Queen Honey and veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell in a model bee beard demonstration!

(Continued on page 43)
There is an old expression, “Ashtrays are full, time to get a new car.” Humorous, if a tad extreme, and expensive. However, I have heard beekeepers say that they need a new jacket because the elastic at the cuffs or bottom edge is shot, or a new veil because the elastic at the top of the old veil has died, and bees are getting up their sleeves or in their veils and stinging them.

Replacing elastic is a simple and quick fix that does not rely on any fancy equipment. A needle, a safety pin, a seam ripper (or pointy scissors), and some elastic. Since I sew, I always have extra pieces of elastic in a drawer. The elastic, if purchased at a fabric store will cost less than $4.00.

First step is to remove the old elastic. Open up the cuff casing by snipping a few of the stitches. Your opening only needs to be about 1 inch. Pull about two inches of the elastic into a loop, and then cut the loop and pull out the elastic from the casing.

Now is the time to measure and cut the new elastic for your custom fit. It should wrap around your wrist. You don’t want a tight fit, because the fabric will take up quite a bit of room, and you don’t want to cut off your circulation when you are out in the beeyard.

Once you have the length you want, place the safety pin at one end of the piece. Insert the safety pin end into the casing, and snake it through the casing. You may need to pin or tape the safety pin end to the fabric so that you don’t pull it through the casing.

Using the needle and thread, slightly overlap the two ends of elastic and stitch together. Check the fit, if too loose, unstitch and overlap the ends a bit more. Once you are satisfied with the fit, secure the casing with a few stitches.

Good as new, and ready for a few more years of hard work.
Pro-Sweet Liquid Feed gives your bees the carbohydrates they need to stay buzzing and unlike plain sugar water will not ferment or crystallize. Pair it with our Pro Health Feeding Supplement and your bees will be stronger, healthier, and encouraged to draw out new foundation even faster. **Pro-Sweet + Pro Health equals superior feed for your hardworking bees.**

**Pro Health**
- Pint jug (FD-350)....... $27.95
- Gallon (FD-351)....... $129.95
- 5 gallon (FD-352) ..... $499.95

**Pro-Sweet**
- 2½ gallon (CN-076).... $41.95
- 5 gallon (CN-075) ...... $69.95

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meetings they meet the third Tuesday of every month from 7-9 pm, at the OSU Extension building, 520 W. Main St. Cortland, OH 44410. Email at Trumbullcountybeekeepers@yahoo.com or like them on Facebook.

Ashtabula County Beekeepers held its annual field day on June 1st. The event was hosted by Jacob Kurtz and his family. The instructors for the class were Rick Becker of Heritage Farm & Apiary, Ed Freel, Trumbull County Bee Inspector, James Baker, Vice President of ACBA and Jacob Kurtz.

Over sixty beekeepers attended the event. This year’s field day covered a variety of topics including how to evaluate a dead out, determining varroa mite levels and treatment, dealing with laying worker’s, general hive inspection, installing queen cages, spotting queens and queen cells.

Nina Bagley/Rod Pritchard - Heart of Ohio:

East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association grew by approximately 80 new beekeeping students and scholarship award recipients. They added 4 youth scholarship winners. 2020 scholarship applications open June 15 and close November 1, 2019 – check website www.e-coba.org for links and information.

Beekeeping school registration will open mid-June for 2020– watch the website/ Facebook page for info.

Check their booth out at these fairs and events – Perry County Fair, Hartford Fair, Muskingum County Fair. Lithopolis Honeyfest, Fairfield County Fair (sponsoring Bees/Honey/Beeswax and Honey Baking competition)

The teaching beeyard meets Thursdays during beekeeping season, with two levels, 1st year and 2nd year. You must be a member to participate.

Summer hours for the 6:30 p.m. Board meetings at Taft Reserve South for the remainder of this year are the first Monday of the month from unless otherwise indicated on the calendar. Members are welcome to attend!

Monthly general membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted. Location is Taft Reserve South, 10383 Fairview Rd SE, Newark, OH 4305. Several upcoming speakers include Jeff Gabric from Knox County Bees, who will be speaking on over-wintering nucs; and Nina Bagley and Rod Prichard, regional reps from Ohio State Beekeepers.

Special events this year include: On June 22nd a Honey extraction class for 1st and 2nd year teaching beeyard. On July 11th - a General membership honey extraction class. On July 13th - the Annual ECOBA picnic and silent auction. The silent auction raises funds for education and scholarships. Anything from home canned goods, mead, special pollinator plants, crafts, bee equipment, bees.

Knox County Beekeepers Association had a May beeyard event that included a cookout. This quarter also included OSBA Traveling Speaker, Tim Arheit.

Scioto Valley Beekeepers recent meetings have included Barb Bloetscher, state apiarist; Bill Huhman, county apiary inspector and Matt Woida, a club member who spoke on swarm traps. With the addition of participants in the new beekeeper training class, Scioto Valley Beekeepers, based in Circleville, is nearing an all-time high for membership. Plans are being made for the club’s summer hog roast in July. The club dedicates some of its resources to maintaining apiaries at Slate Run Living Historical Farm and Everts Hill, a senior housing facility in Circleville. The club meets the second Thursday of each month, visit their website: www.sciotovalleybeekeepers.com.

Fairfield County Beekeepers Association continues to thrive. They have received the affiliation approval from OSBA, opened a bank account, have speakers scheduled for the next 2 years, have started fund-raising, adopted a club logo, and continue to add new members - 10 in the last few months - bringing membership to 93 people.

FCBA has benefitted from the OSBA Traveling Speakers Program, hosting Bob Hooker in April, speaking on Queen Rearing for the Backyard Beekeeper; Ron Zickefoose in
As OSBA approaches the end of the year, we need to be thinking of the leadership roles involved in sustaining the organization and its programs. There will be a need for Nominees on the ballot for the following positions: OSBA President, OSBA Treasurer, Erie Basin Regional Director, Maumee Valley Regional Director, and Top of Ohio Regional Director. The Regional Representatives will also need to recommit to a one year term and be appointed by the President.

By seeking Nominees earlier in the year, the Nominating Committee has hopes of filling all positions on the Board, both those currently filled and up for re-election, and any open positions. Those interested in being involved with OSBA at the Board level will help guide the direction of OSBA, its policies, procedures, and educational programs. This opportunity will allow for networking among fellow beekeepers throughout Ohio and give you and your area resources to help promote sustainable beekeeping practices. Not only do you benefit, but your area clubs benefit from your involvement.

If you or anyone you might know are interested or have questions concerning any of the positions up for election at the Fall Conference, please get in touch with Mike Doseck, Nomination Committee Chairman, at mdosohio9866@gmail.com.

OSBA Nomination Committee

Mike Doseck
Underserved Grant - Only 3 Left!

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

Your OSBA Board has approved funding for an Underserved Grant. This grant provides a library of five beekeeping books, a year’s subscription to both national beekeeping magazines, along with an OSBA.

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

Special Pricing - Limited Supply

As part of the OSBA Traveling Speaker Program this year, and to help beekeepers take that next step towards queen rearing, OSBA arranged special pricing on Queen Rearing Essential by Dr. Larry Connor.

Beekeepers can order a copy at of this book, at a reduced rate, from our website. Hurry, we only have a limited quantity available. www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/queen-rearing-for-hobbyists/

OSBA Embroidered Logowear Now Available

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

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

Visit their website today to order your OSBA Logowear. https://www.companycasuals.com/OSBA/start.jsp
On April 6th & 13th SRVBA held the Beginning Beekeepers Class. Below is the graduating class!

They also attended the Osborn Metro Parks Earth Day event on April 28th where they had an observation hive & promoted honey bees.

On June 8th the SRVBA did a presentation at the Ohio State Park on Kelley’s Island. There was a lot of interest and great questions on Beekeeping.

Joe Heider/ Rick Blessing: Crossroads Region

Tri-County Beekeepers preparations have already begun for Tri-County’s 42st Annual TCBA Spring Beekeepers Workshop on March 6-7 in 2020. So mark your calendars early.

Fair Season is here so come look them up at the Wayne County Fair September 7-9. The Ashland County Fair September 15-21st and TCBA will also be supporting OSBA at the State Fair in Columbus July 29th.

TCBA has their regular meetings the last Wednesday of each month at the Ohio State University Bee Lab in Wooster. Meetings start at 7pm with a guest speaker followed by a snack and a business meeting to end the evening. Meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend.

On June 26th Ohio State Beekeepers Traveling Speaker Joe Kovaleski was the guest speaker with the “Backyard Queen Rearing” presentation

In lieu of the July meeting, they will have a club picnic July 29th with participation from Stark County Beekeepers. This is always a lot of fun. The picnic is held at the Wilderness Center Prairie Shelter in Wilmot Ohio –11a-4p Eating at noon.

For the August Meeting, State Apiarist Barb Bloetscher telling them everything they ever wanted to know about small hive beetles.

Carroll County Beekeepers are getting ready for their fair July 16-21. This past quarter, OSBA Traveling Speakers Joe Kovaleski and Bob Hooker were guest speakers. Club members set up at a local farmer market and give away seeds to help provide local forage for honey bees.

Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers meets the 1st Monday of each month at the Mid-East Career Center, Buffalo Campus. At April’s meeting, Melanie Seal of Blue Sky Bee Supply gave a Honey marketing and Labeling presentation. Question and Answer period followed the presentation. OSBA Traveling Speaker, Bob Hooker, was May’s guest speaker. Bob presentation “Hobbyist Queen Rearing” provided valuable information to help beekeepers raise queens. In June, Phil Dobeck provided a Honey Extracting Demonstration. He also discussed methods on hot to pull frames off hives.

Stark County Beekeepers started off the quarter with OSBA Traveling Speaker Ron Zickefoose and the topic “Hobbyist Queen Rearing.” April was also their Field Day at Sheila Dickens’ apiary. In May, Chris Merckle discussed “How to Manage Hives for Maximum Honey Production.”

Geoffrey Hultgren: Miami Valley Region

Warren County Beekeepers: The Warren County Ohio Beekeepers, an OSBA affiliate club; has had a very busy spring; with an active swarm season, collaborating with Caesar’s Creek State Park Nature Center, and of course, meetings.

The swarm season has been very busy in this part of the state, and numerous swarms calls for assistance have come into WCOB’s updated webpage. The club’s collaboration with the Caesar’s Creek State Park is going well. The plans to fill an observation hive from a feeder hive on park property has faced some setbacks, such as slow build up from the package that was installed this spring, and then the hive was not queenright. A new queen was recently introduced, and we will start again. The club meetings have been well attended, and very informative! In April Jamie Walters, OSBA Traveling Speaker, spoke to the club on the topic of queen rearing. Jamie, always a good speaker, made an excellent presentation on queen rearing. . There was no May meeting because of Mother’s Day. The June Meetings speaker was Dr. Alex Zomcheck. Alex’s topic was Apiary Maintenance and Mite Control. Alex’s presentation was fact filled and had lots of information for all beekeepers.

Greene County Beekeepers: Held their 2nd Annual Field Day on May 25. Participants visited a variety of education-
Take Advantage of These Upcoming Educational Conferences

May, speaking on Nucs in the Bee Yard; and Tim Arheit in June, speaking on Monitoring for Sustainability. At the May meeting, committees were able to meet, get to know each other and set dates for committee planning meetings. A club member donated a new hive kit to FCBA and they are holding a drawing for this, as a fundraiser for the club. Drawing tickets are $5.00 each and the drawing will be held once all ticket are sold.

FCBA established an apiary at their meeting site - a Lancaster church property where the pastor is a beekeeper! A retired beekeeper in Columbus donated 5 used hives to the club and a club member donated two colonies. The Bee Yard Committee met the last week of May to set up the FCBA Apiary. This will be used for hands-on trainings for members and newcomers.

Excitement is high as we get to know each other and learn from each other. It's great to have a local club for all the beekeepers in the area!

Angel Mitchell/Sonny Ward: Erie Basin

Richland Area Beekeepers Association Field Day was held Saturday, May 11, 2019 at Dave Duncan's apiary in Crestline, OH. The weather was cool, the sun was shining, and the bees were exception-ally well-behaved. Topics included how to light smokers, smoker fuel types, hive tool cleaning, hive inspection, alco-hol wash, oxalic acid treatment, and bee log extraction. Special thanks to the apiary host, the grill master, shuttle driver, and everyone who helped make this fun and educational experience possible!

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers attended the 1st ever Wildlife Expo at Sawmill Creek in Huron to represent polli-nators.

Association Corner (Continued from page 35)
From Package Boxes to Robbing Screens - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Paul Piszkiewicz

I am frugal and a strong believer in “recycle, repurpose & reuse”. OK, I’m also cheap. So, what can you do with leftover packages after the bees are in the hive?

Robbing screens are used to protect weak hives from stronger colonies, wasps and feeding frenzies during the summer dearth.

The basic concept is that robbing bees will try to enter the target hive quickly by the most direct route. They are not carrying any nectar or pollen into that hive, so they will move fast and try to blow past the guards. The resident bees will learn the trick of getting past a less direct route into the hive through practice. The deception of a screen and indirect entrance will make robbing more energy costly than it is worth to robbers.

The screen side of a standard package box is approximately the same width as a 10 frame box. It seemed to me that a side of the package is 90% of the way to a robbing screen.

The first step is to reinforce the frame. Let’s face it. Packages are very cheaply made, one-use boxes. There is just enough structural integrity to hold them together for a few weeks. In order to reuse parts for a robbing screen, add ½” long, thin nails or wire brads (large nails and staples will easily split this low quality wood) to the top and side strips of wood holding the screen to the larger boards of the box. The bottom piece is not nailed as the wood behind it will be removed later.

The corners of the wood strips holding the screen in place especially need to be reinforced. Drill pilot holes at each corner and insert glue covered nails. Fill gaps at the corner joints with a weatherproof filler, like a 2 part epoxy, J.B.Weld™, Bondo™, GorillaGlue™, etc.

Mark the wood panels ½” from the screen and cut with a saw blade that will not be bothered by a few thin nails. One half inch will provide sufficient “bee space” and avoid getting the saw hung up on the central support bar. I use a reciprocating saw with a metal cutting blade, but I suppose that a band saw would also work.

Saw through and remove the bottom wood strip on one side of the screen and central support to open up the screened area for the bees. A smaller opening of 1” to 3” through the top bar will form the actual exit to the hive. I have seen commercially available robbing screens where the access path behind the screen is covered. This could provide some extra security and help guide the workers to the exit. The end panel of the package requires only a little trimming to fill this role and can be held in place with exterior wood glue.

At this point, the robbing screen must be customized to your particular style of hive base. A flat landing pad requires a simple rectangular wood strip of the appropriate dimensions attached to the remaining bottom wood strip. A sloped landing area will need a strip cut at that angle for a tight fit.

Robbing screens can be attached to the hive with screws, nails (pre-drill pilot holes to prevent splitting the wood), duct tape, or bungee cords.
13th Annual “Bigger and Better Than Ever”

Friday, Sept 6th 3 - 7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept 7th, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Free Admission, Parking and Shuttle

- BEE BEARDS & BEEKEEPERS
- HONEY & HONEY TASTING
- MEAD COMPETITION
- HONEYFEST QUEEN PAGEANT
- HONEY BAKE OFF
- OHIO HONEY SHOW
- HONEY EXTRACTING
- 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
**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.

Please appoint someone in your association to notify an OSBA officer when a loss occurs so proper recognition can be made.

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

**Update on Graham Middle School Library Grant Students**

Sometime over Christmas Break, the cold killed our colonies. My students and I were worried that they were too small to survive, and that was sadly the case. However, yesterday I received news that a community partner has ordered us a new nuc. The kids are thrilled! Additionally, this community partner is buying us several pounds of wildflower seed for pollinators.

It is our hope that the expanded food source and single hive will mean we end up with a colony that can survive next winter.

**Association Corner (Continued from page 38)**

All stations, everyone enjoyed lunch under the shade of oak trees. The club participated at the Pollinator Event at Wright Pat Air Force Base. They are planning their annual picnic and auction table, along with the annual honey harvest.

**Southwestern Ohio Beekeepers** has also had a busy swarm season. The Club Officers are busy planning for the SWOBA Spring Conference 2020. Details will follow. The next SWOBA Meeting is Saturday, June 22, at noon at Parky’s Farm 10073 Daly Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45231. The meeting will feature open hive demonstrations, and Varroa control methods.

**From Don Crock: Buckeye Hills**

**Tri-State Beekeepers Association** has been working with the Belmont Correctional Institution in neighboring Belmont County, Ohio for the past three years in establishing a beekeeping club within the facility. Currently 57 inmates are involved in the program.

**Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers** meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The July and August meetings are held at Williamstown Tomlinson City Park. Visit movba.org for more details.

**Athens County Area Beekeepers Association** had a busy quarter, with guest speakers Jeannie Saum, OSBA Traveling Speakers Joe Kovaleksi and Bob Hooker. Visit their website athensbeekeepers.org and Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/222274687968895/
OSBA at the State Fair (Continued from page 32)

bee yard and learn how to become a beekeeper.

• 10:30a – See if you can identify the queen in the observation hives.
• 11a – Learn how to make soap from Marishka Wile, a beekeeper and soap maker
• 11a – Have you ever pet a real honey bee? Today’s your chance when you visit the Sandusky River Valley beekeeping club.
• 1p – Bee beard demonstration. Watch beekeeper Dan Surina attract thousands of bees around his neck to form a beard (weather permitting)
• 2p – Stop in and look at the huge selection of flower and garden seeds available to help you start your own pollinator garden and talk to experts who can help guide your decisions.

• 3p – Make honey smoothies with the American Honey Queen.
• 4p-5:30p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care honey bees.

Sun. Aug. 4:

• 9a-5p – Visit the vendors and sample real Ohio honey and other products from the hive
• 11a-12p – Relax and listen to veteran beekeeper Zale Maxwell talk about how to be a beekeeper. Yes, there are classes available throughout Ohio!
• 1p – Take a swing at the bee piñata for the youngest of our young visitors.
• 2p – Learn from Master Gardener and beekeeper Tina Bobek the types of herbs and plants bees crave
• 3p-4p – Ask the Beekeeper. Talk to a real beekeeper about what it’s like to care for thousands of bees.
As in past years, the 2019 Fall Conference will feature open honey judging. Attendees will be able to observe the judging that takes place throughout the day. Our judges 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.

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 1# glass gamber or queenline jars
✓ Wax: 1/2 to 1 pound entry.
✓ Flavored Granulated Honey: Three straight sided glass containers ranging between 12 oz to 1 ½ pounds. All containers must hold equal amounts of product.
✓ Gift Baskets: Maximum of 12 pounds (total including the container and contents), and at least ¾ of the items must be hive products produced by the beekeeper.

Prizes

✓ **First Prize**: Ribbon and $20 (one awarded in each category)
✓ **Second Prize**: Ribbon and $10 (one awarded in each category)
✓ **Best of Show**: Rosette and $20
One could argue that most months are transition months where our bees are reacting and adjusting to environmental pressures. But June is, well, special. Let me explain.

The summer solstice takes place on June 21\textsuperscript{st}. This is where the sun travels the longest path to reach its most northern, highest point in the sky. This creates the longest day of the year (sunlight wise) and the shortest night. Here in the mid-Ohio Valley we will receive about 15 and a half hours of light vs. the 5 and a half hours of light we see on the winter solstice (December 21\textsuperscript{st}).

I suspect given the long days (and prevalent rains this year) this is where that old expression, “Make hay while the sun shines.” comes from. So barring the rain our bees should have long foraging days for weeks to come – right? Well, yes but no.

The length of your day seasonally depends where you are. If you live on the Arctic Circle the sun will not actually set on the Summer Solstice. And so it goes with bee foraging – it depends where you are. You will have extended light and temperatures, but if you do not have the forage, well, no foraging.

Bees and beekeepers find themselves attuned to what is blooming at-large and when. And June signals not only the end of spring, but the end of these major spring nectar flows.

The black locust and honeysuckle are a memory. Cottonwoods with their airy blooms are whispering that spring is drawing long. The elderberries are starting to stain sidewalks and roadway, and the catalpa tree blooms in Oxford are starting to fall.

This is my personal bell weather. When the Catalpa blooms fall you can pretty much assume the major nectar flows have or are about to come to a dramatic halt. Why is this so significant?

It takes roughly two million accessible nectar producing flowers to make a single pound of honey. And it takes approximately 100 pounds of honey to sustain a single colony for a year. This translates into over 200 billion flowers. Do your bees have access to two hundred billion flowers?

The answer for most of us at any given time is no. With proper hive placement though you likely have access to such resources over time. The question for the moment is – has that time/resources come and gone?

As with most things in beekeeping there are exceptions. With all the rains we have gotten this spring (almost 30 inches out of an annual average 38 inches) we may yet see a sustained clover bloom.

Caution: there are patches here and there to be sure, but are you near them and are they significant in number? (Experiment: Place a dollar bill in a clover patch near your hive(s). The bill is 6 inches. Count the number of florets in a square foot and multiply by the estimated the number of square feet in your area. For example: there are 57,000 square feet in a football sized patch of clover. If you count, say 50 clovers per square foot this translates into 2,850,000 flowers. If these are all nectar producing your bees could make roughly 3 pounds of honey from this patch. Yep – that is what it takes; and more!).

Other signs in June that things are wrapping up nectar wise is capped honey. During heavy flows the bees are consumed with nectar gathering, drying, and ripening honey. Capping occurs as the nectar flows slows and/or ceases all together.

Have you noticed flight activity at the entrance lately? Where just 2-3 weeks ago you had hundreds of incoming/outgoing flights per minute; now this likely has slowed considerably. There are fits and starts on given days, but the trend is clear.

The true irony here is that after early stimulation of over wintered colonies; after installation of nucs and packages; after approaching max foragers (vs. brood bees, wax producers, et.al.); after controlling for swarming; after all this – the big nectar flow in the mid-Ohio Valley comes to a near complete halt. Welcome to beekeeping in Ohio.

To add insult to injury keep in mind that with the lack of nectar, comes a lack of pollen. So without incoming carbohydrates and proteins your colonies now have to survive on what they have stored.

Your peak or near peak regular hive populations have to be fed. Add to this lots of young bees still hatching out and lots of drones requiring feed. It does not take long to go through limited stores. (Experiment: Take a photo of the outer frames of your brood chambers now where most

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Ohio Beekeeping

Editor’s Note - Road Maps

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Change is a must in our industry. In 2002, my first year as OSBA Newsletter Editor, I inherited no vendor advertiser price list, template, or other documentation to help with the direction I was to take for OSBA. I only had a paper copy of a stapled 3 page newsletter, and a directive of creating a newsletter for Ohio beekeepers. (To view old issues of the newsletter, visit www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/osba-newsletters/historical-newsletters/.)

Like many of the current OSBA programs, from New Beekeeper Outreach, Library Grant, 4-H Program, New Board Handbook, OSBA Affiliate Program, et.al., there was no roadmap, GPS, orienteering guide, or any other “how-to” materials. There was a need, and your OSBA Executive Board figured out a way to meet the need.

The current OSBA committees have accepted the responsibility for the future of our programs, and are fortunate because they have been provided with a breakdown of all the activities, along with timelines, in order to successfully complete the projects in a timely manner.

Over the past 8 years, the newsletter has evolved into a quarterly document available both on-line and in print. As readers, you have been treated to a wide variety of articles from diverse authors, mostly based here in Ohio. The newsletter has kept you updated not only on all the many OSBA activities, but also beekeeping activities around the state.

During my tenure as editor, there will have been 32 issues, and over 1,200 pages of Ohio beekeeping information. I am currently diligently working on what will be my last issue as Editor, the 4th quarter newsletter.

Please consider volunteering to be part of creating this important informational document. Visit www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/volunteer-opportunities/ for more details. Help create the next exciting roadmap for others to follow.

Have a great summer, and see you at the OSBA Fall Conference 2019 on November 2nd.

Harbinger (Continued from page 45)

of the spring pollen is stored. Do this again in a July. Do this again in August.)

This sudden lack of vital resources will force the bees to withhold feeding the queen which in turn will subsequently reduce the population in your colony. This all important feedback mechanism keeps the bees from overpopulating and literally eating themselves out of house and home come the summer into early fall dearth.

The title of this editorial is, “June – Harbinger Month”. Paying attention to June’s signals is critical. You have to know the nectar seasons in your very specific hive area. Do your bees as of this writing have enough resources to make it to fall (2-3+ months) when golden rod and aster proliferate the landscape and provide our next protein and carb opportunities. If not, supplemental feeding is a must to stave off starvation and nutritional brood deficiencies.

June is also the month where pests and diseases typically show up. These come primarily in response to higher bee populations and nutrition issues.

There are things you can do to mitigate both nutritional and pests/diseases stressors. First you have to appreciate June for the harbinger month it is. Do not be filled by the great green expanse this is summer in Ohio. Your honey crop is in. Second you have to monitor your hive(s) to properly evaluate the conditions of your colony(s).

Quarterly newsletters and column space limits covering both nutritional and pests/diseases in sufficient detail. I choose nutrition to focus on the reality of now (and plan for next year...). Suffice to say there are lots of things we beekeepers can do to affect and influence the health of our hives as we transition into summer.
Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2019 Membership Form

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

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

Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Inc.
1624 Idlewood Ave
Akron, OH 44313

Name: ___________________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City: _________________ State: ___ Zip: ______________ County: ____________________
Phone: (____)______-_________ Email Address (Print neatly) __________________________
Name of Local Bee Association: ________________________________
Number of Hives: ______________________________

☐ $15.00 Senior (age 60 or over)/for 1 year
☐ $15.00 Student membership for 1 year
☐ $20.00 Individual membership for 1 year
☐ $25.00 Family membership for 1 year
☐ $200.00 Lifetime membership (individual or family)
☐ As an OSBA member, I want to be on the OSBA Swarm List

I would also like to donate ☐ $5 ☐ $10 ☐ $20 ☐ $_________ to support 4H and honey bee research

Membership is based on the calendar year, January through December
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