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Would you like your photo used on the front cover? If so, please send high resolution photos to: editor@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
Credits will be given to photographer.

April Cover Photo
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OSBA Quarterly Newsletter - Deadlines
July Edition June 1st
October Edition September 1st
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.

Robert Silleck  
Terry Guthrie

Christy S. Rose  
Evelyn Lepard

Edward DelGrosso  
Adelle Rodriguez

Terry Guthrie  
Kelly Gallagher

Mike Bentley  
Matthew Fleming

Quarterly Donations 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. “Thank You”

Gordon Fetters  
Neil Corrigan

Floyd Marshall  
Don Flory

We are pleased to announce that the Hive Newsletter is coming back. We offered the newsletter to those who received the ADK as a bonus offer. This is released monthly with information used only as a reference for what you should be doing and looking for in your apiary(s). The ADK Grant has brought so much more to Ohio beekeepers, we thought this would do the same for everyone. You’re welcome to sign-up to receive the newsletter at: https://ohiostatebeekeepers.org/emails""
I would like to thank everyone for their input on the newsletter and for those who stepped up in bringing in this information. We want everyone to feel a part of this newsletter. I've posted the deadline for the July edition, June 1st, throughout this edition. We are asking for help with a few new features that members have asked for.

*Photography - anyone willing to write an article on taking close-ups of our precious ladies, to winning honey entries. You're going to see a couple photographers as you read this issue.

*Recipes - I know for a fact that there are some wonderful bakers, chefs, and home-makers that make some delicious food & treats. Please send your recipe with photos and I will create a page for 3 x 5 cards (print & cut) that you can put right into your recipe box or share.

*Gadgets - anything that you have created or modified that you would like to share with the members that would make our hobby/jobs easier. You're welcome to send plans, photos, and a description.

I'm not going to into the virus conversation that we are all getting hourly updates & cautions about, but we are all into this together. Let's work together and get some great information out to the membership.

We have the capability to use 99% of software, ranging from:

*Photos - anything from cell phones to professional cameras - .jpg .tiff .bmp .png .raw

*Document - most all document software: notepad, word, excel - .pdf .xlsx .xls .doc .docx .txt

*Other - Corel & Adobe Suits, vector art - .ai .cdr .cdt .dwg .dxf .plt

**OSBA Announcements**

Stuck at home, nothing to do, & bee class canceled? I know, bad joke entirely. We want to offer technical support to the OSBA members by helping every club or association with Zoom Online Conference Meetings software. Jamie Walters will be holding online classes to help you understand, setup, and operate the Zoom software and website. This will help you host your own business meeting, beginner class, or anything else you want to offer to your members. **OSBA is not doing this to be the only voice of beekeeping.** We only want to assist you in reaching out to your members to offer online training to those beekeepers that might not have received/finished a beginners class, newbees, members that can't attend meetings, and for the safety aspect of the Covid 19 virus.

Please watch the Facebook page for dates and times. The first Zoom training class will be Saturday, April 4th, 6:00pm. [Reserve a Spot](https://www.facebook.com/events/505427253463535/) at the OSBA Facebook Event for link & directions. This will be on a first come, first served basis and will run multiple classes, if needed, since we can only host 100 people per class at this time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact: Jamie Walters - j.walters1054@yahoo.com

https://www.facebook.com/events/505427253463535/
As I write this, the corona virus is causing bee clubs around Ohio and the country to find other ways to meet and exchange information. Please take this virus seriously and do not gather for your meetings. Here at OSBA we are working on having presentations available to your local clubs online so that social distance can be observed. OSBA understands that many beginner classes were interrupted and that the new beekeepers are in need of guidance as they start their beekeeping journey. All club meetings will need to be online on platforms like Zoom or such. Remember to check out the OSBA website under “Training” for the podcasts, videos and power points … interesting materials are there for your viewing. Please continue to check our Facebook page, this newsletter and OSBA website for updates regarding other online presentations. Please contact me with any concerns regarding meetings/conferences and I will do my best to get responses to you in a timely manner.

Upcoming OSBA event tables that were planned have been cancelled and I look for that trend not to change in the near months. Planning for the Ohio State Fair Bee Pavillion and OSBA Fall Conference is continuing and we have many great speakers on board for the conference to deliver another memorable experience. We will be looking for volunteers for both the fair and conference, so please go to the OSBA website and volunteer.

Apiary Diagnostic Kits are still available and I’m continuing to have vetting completed, classes verified and shipping scheduled. Please continue to apply online for your free kit – we still have about 30 more to ship! There is still a lot to look forward to and plan for. Spring is bursting everywhere and the bees are bringing pollen loads back in earnest!

Take care, wash your hands and move forward with your bee season!

New Beekeeping - Eligible to Receive a complimentary ADK

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant allowed OSBA to provide up to 700 complimentary Apiary Diagnostic Kits to new Ohio beekeepers to help increase their monitoring skills. We have less than 30 complimentary kits remaining, so fulfill the requirements and get your kit while supplies last.

Eligibility requirements for new Ohio beekeepers:
- Have taken a 2019 or 2020 beginner beekeeping class (if we have the class list from your instructor) or proof of class
- Proof of Apiary Registration
- Proof of Equipment Purchase (hive or bees)
- Commitment to fill out short on-line monthly surveys throughout 2020 regarding your hive visits

If you meet those prerequisites, then visit www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/adt to get information on how to apply. New beekeepers who sign up for the program will receive monthly reminders of apiary tasks to help keep them on track for a successful year. Each kit contains easy to use tools to help monitor your hives, along with a full-color spiral bound and laminated step-by-step guide that includes helpful photos.
Biosecurity, Beekeeping & Life Lessons – Alex Zomchek

I have an older brother who works in South Korea. He recently had to fly his wife to Bangkok, Thailand for a medical procedure. Then everything came to a halt.

While traveling, the Army base he works on, was put under quarantine in response to a confirmed case of the COVID-19 virus. Simultaneously, South Korea countrywide is now limiting international air travel to contain and control future outbreaks. He has been told to hunker down and stay put in Thailand until further notice.

Beekeeping. Though I have many hats in the beekeeping world many readers know me for my work at Miami University on monitoring (originator of the Apiary Diagnostic Kit that OSBA uses). My science self has to measure and quantify things on the path to more fully understanding things.

So I began this year working on new stratagems and educational tools to further help reduce unacceptable bee mortality rates together with addressing low hive productivity results (your hive might not have died this past year, but were they “productive”?).

All this recent attention (hyped and not) to the COVID-19 virus contagion got me thinking more about Ps & Ds (pests & diseases) of our hives. In particular I am interested to explore how human health and hive health are affected and/or controlled by similar mechanisms and how we beekeepers might approach our infectious diseases and biosecurity differently.

Broadly we have secondary pests (small hive beetle, wax moths, et.al.) in our hives that for the most part are nuisances and can be readily controlled. The same for human populations. We have aches, pains, coughs, and sniffles, but for the most part these are annoyances.

We also have primary Ps & Ds in our hives that are not readily controlled with THE major culprit being a parasitic mite in the arachnid (spider) family called varroa destructor that is the bane of our current beekeeping existence. And like COVID-19 is a strain of the generalized coronavirus; varroa mites in variants.

Up until the year 2000 it was believed that varroa destructor was the same varroa jacobson that was originally discovered in 1904 parasitizing the Asian honey bee (apis cerana). Researchers ultimately concluded in 2000(!) that when the Western honey bee (apis mellifera) was imported and mingled with the Asian honey bee (apis cerana) in the Philippines in the early 1960s a new species of varroa (varroa destructor) was created out of varroa jacobson.

Varroa destructor then, like COVID-19 now, continent hopped: Early 1960s Japan, USSR; 1960-1970s, Eastern Europe; 1971 Brazil; late 1970s South America; 1982 France; 1984 Switzerland, Spain, Italy; 1987 USA; 1989 Canada; 1992 England; 2000 New Zealand (North Island); 2006 New Zealand (South Island); 2007 Hawaiian Islands. As of this writing for statistical and practical purposes we consider most if not all Western honey bee (apis mellifera) hives to be infected with varroa destructor.

COVID-19 is a recent primary disease today and using near real-time population dynamic reporting and modeling we are able to trace its origins and spread. Aside: as of this writing 67 countries of the world have reported cases with 89,072 reported cases and 3,053 deaths (see https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries for real-time updates).
In brief, what makes COVID-19 more insidious than previous strains of the coronavirus is its mortality levels. Where “typical” influenza infection rates see roughly 1/10th of one percent mortality; current COVID-19 mortality rates appear to be in the 2+ percent range, or about 20+ times higher.

Similarly we beekeepers have watched varroa destructor become a vector (or host) to bacterial and viral pathogens. This is significant. It is the difference between being bitten by a deer tick versus being bitten by a deer tick with Lyme disease. The first is annoying; the second can be debilitating.

COVID-19, like many influenza strains, is particularly hard on the aged, young, and infirm. By comparison varroa destructor has been hard on older and new beekeepers who fail to appreciate the insidiousness of this infectious parasitic problem.

Part of the problem has been watching varroa destructor change from being a macro parasite weakening bees by feeding on the bee’s hemolymph and body fats; to being a vector for, wait for it, viruses. To-date we have identified nearly two dozen viruses affecting our honey bees with more to be identified.

This COVID-19 outbreak is and will be tragic, leaving most of us with little to do other than take the necessary prescribed precautions. But we beekeepers can use this heightened awareness to better monitor our hives.

I define monitoring as learning/knowing what to look for; when to look; treating (if necessary); and then verifying that your treatments are effective. This is key. The ADK kit…

Human contagions for the most part are seasonal or run a prescribed course. Varroa destructor is not going away. It has a near 100 percent infectious rate across our colonies. Why are there no complete cures for varroa destructor yet?...no vaccine for COVID-19…

Because of the biologic similarities between mites and bees our chemical arsenal has to walk a fine balance between giving the mites a lethal dose while giving our honeybees and sub-lethal dose of medication.

Attempts have been underway to genetic improve bees' hygienic response or our bees with varying degrees of success. Future forward attempts to introduce a bacterium into the bee gut that is transmitted to and kills varroa looks promising, but is still on the drawing board and fraught with bioethical concerns.

Until different and better solutions come to the mainstream it behooves us to make better use and understanding of the tools we have. This means taking proactive steps to reduce mite loads; that will in turn reduce pathogens loads; that will in turn reduce bee mortality and improve hive productivity.

Monitor mite levels and proactively treat with miticides and manipulations to keep mite loads low. Start monitoring early to establish a baseline. Treat early if needed before capped brood nests make treatments more ineffective. Try 1-2 percent thresholds before treating instead of the 3-5-7 percent levels of the past. Again, we do not have, nor foresee virus “cures”. By keeping mite loads low we keep pathogen loads lower. Look to hygienic behavior and/or hives that express vigor and requeen from this stock.

On a brighter note we have to appreciate that we have just a handful of problems that we can do anything about, and a handful of solutions that we can effectively apply to those problems. Things could be much worse.
It is an interesting coincidence that we head into a new bee season fraught with legitimate concerns about the COVID-19 virus. As beekeepers we can profit by using this heightened awareness to think and plan for the pests and diseases in our hives. Given the annual hive mortality numbers that continue to plague our industry we would be well served to take the government’s latest position on the COVID-19 virus: “Hope for the best; plan for the worst.”

Oh, that sequestered brother of mine just called and is turning his medical leave into an extended “stay-cation” in sunny Thailand. Here’s to sunnier days ahead in the world and in our apiaries.

Master Beekeeping Program

The Ohio Master Beekeeper Program is an intensive 3 step program – A beginning/Apprentice level, a Journey (man or woman) level, and a Masters level. Certification by OSBA is designed to give participants the opportunity to increase their beekeeping knowledge. OSBA will provide certificates to all individuals who complete the requirements for each individual level. Instruction will be provided through a number of class/seminar/workshops certified by OSBA.

http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/master-beekeeper-program/

Anatomy Quiz

A______________  B______________  C______________  D______________  E______________  F______________  G______________  H______________

Life Cycle

1___________ Bonus
2___________
3___________
4___________ Bonus: At what day does it take to get to each life cycle?
Traveling Speaker Program - “Successful Overwintering”

We are now offering the OSBA Traveling Speaker Program as a Zoom webinar for 2020. This year's topic will be "Successful Overwintering". This program will cover the basics of getting bees ready for winter and steps that beekeepers might do to improve winter survival of honey bees.

There will be a nominal fee to reserve a Traveling Speaker: $35 for OSBA affiliates, and $50 for non-affiliates. We are currently accepting reservations for these presentations. To schedule a speaker, please contact: OSBA at travelingspeaker@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Other topics available through the Traveling Speaker Program include:
- Sustainable Beekeeping Management: Hobbyist Queen-Rearing
- Monitoring for Sustainability
- Sustainable Beekeeping using Nucs
- Grants - What You Need to Know Before You Get Started

OSBA Outreach to the Beginner Beekeeping Classes for 2020
Since the virus outbreak, most beginner classes didn't happen or barely started. If you’re still in need of outreach information, please feel free to reach out. Every student will receive educational information, promotional items, PLUS a one year complimentary membership to OSBA. This year we will again be including a copy of the Honey Bee Heath Coalition’s “Tools for Varroa Management Guide.” We all know that beekeeping is not an inexpensive activity, and we want all new-bees to start on the right track - education, fellowship, and awareness of all that OSBA offers. We will be sending out information to local association leaders at the beginning of next year - Make sure that we have your association’s updated contact information!

Please contact the Outreach Committee at least 2 weeks before your new beekeeping classes held in your areas for educational materials and promotional items. Once you have the class, please submit an enrollment sheet so that we may add each participant for a one year “complimentary” membership in the OSBA.

Send to: newbeekeeperoutreach@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

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Does Your Club Need Some Extra Funds?  
By Mike Doseck

As your club grows and the membership has new ideas and projects to take on, do you find that you would do it if you only had the funds? Sometimes acquiring those funds is not all that hard, doesn’t take a lot of time and it can actually be a lot of fun. Do I have your interest?

If you are going to have a fundraiser, start by defining a purpose for the funds you are raising. Ours was to buy equipment and support the operation of our club bee yard. Two years ago our club started its own bee yard thanks in part to equipment and bees donated by different individuals. While we were grateful for all of those donations, if you can imagine, we had a mixture of 8 and 10 frame supers, both deep and medium boxes and a top bar hive...well you get the idea. Our Chairperson of the bee yard has done a great job with what he had to work with, but was not envied of the task! This past summer he did not have extra supers or foundation to use in the yard when they were needed.

So to remedy this, at our last board meeting it was decided to TRY doing a silent auction. If you don’t know how this works, people donate items for auction. A bid sheet is placed with each item, describing the item and listing the retail value (if known). People put down their name and bid next to it. To raise the bid someone else adds their name and their higher bid. (Only whole dollar bids were allowed.) At the end of the night the person with the highest bid won the item, paid the treasurer and took their new purchase home. Think of it as eBay on paper!

At our December meeting, along with having a speaker and holding our election of officers, the members brought in items for the auction. We had expected maybe half a dozen to a dozen items, but we ended up with around 25 items! A wide variety of auction items were brought in, including eggs, home-made candy, salsa and bread, hive equipment, craft items, mead and pollen powder...

With forty-five people in attendance, there was a lot of activity at the auction tables. You had to keep going back and checking on your bids throughout the evening or you would surely lose out. (I know I did.)

At the end of the auction, the club had brought in almost $600. Our bee yard Chairperson can hardly wait to get into hives with new equipment! We got the money for new equipment, it took very little effort, and we had a lot of fun at the meeting.

We will likely try this again in the future, and perhaps this is an idea that could benefit your club as well.

Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association
https://gglba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/
Honey-Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

Nina Bagley

Step 1
Preheat oven to 350°. Pour honey into a buttered 10-inch cast-iron skillet, tilting skillet to spread evenly. Top with pineapple.

Step 2
Beat sugar and butter at medium speed with a heavy-duty electric stand mixer until fluffy. Stir in vanilla. Whisk together flour and next 4 ingredients. Whisk together buttermilk and eggs. Add flour mixture to sugar mixture alternately with buttermilk mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat just until blended. Spread batter over pineapple.

Step 3
Bake at 350° for 50 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, shielding with aluminum foil after 45 minutes to prevent excessive browning, if necessary. Cool in skillet on a wire rack 10 minutes.

Step 4
Invert cake onto a serving platter. Drizzle with Honey Glaze. Let cool 15 minutes before serving.

Join Ohio State Beekeepers Association

Your $20 membership (less than 6¢ per day) supports activities and projects that benefit our beekeeping community. 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. Please help support the beekeepers voice of Ohio! See page 39 for the membership registration form or online at:

http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/?s=membership

OSBA “Save the Honey Bee” License Plate

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

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**Chasing Feral Honey Bee X2**

By Dwight Wells

Swarm Trapping - Providing a man-made cavity to attract honey bee swarms has been used for many years by beekeepers to either increase their yard populations or replace winter dead-outs. When varroa invaded North America most of the feral bees were killed due to having no resistance to the mites and the viruses they vectored. Swarm Trapping and locating feral swarms soon disappeared.

During the last 30 years package bees have become popular for beginning beekeepers or to replace existing beekeepers’ winter dead outs. Package bees typically are produced in the south or in California and trucked into the northern latitudes, which means they are not locally adapted to our northern areas.

In 1999 Purdue University discovered “Survivor Stock” which was added to the Indiana Leg Chewers research project of Dr. Greg Hunt. Greg has retired, and Dr. Brock Harpur has replaced Greg at Purdue. Brock comes to Purdue from York University, Toronto, Canada. His interests are in honey bee genetics, survivor stock, mite biting and many other attributes of the bees. Additionally, Dr. Tom Seeley has been investigating feral honey bees in the Arnot Forest near Cornell University for many years.

Recently swarm trapping feral honey bees in the Midwest has become an exciting and satisfying activity for many beekeepers, especially to replace dead outs. Feral honey bees have also become a welcome addition to Breeding Programs to add genetic diversity to the drone populations or to produce queens, for natural mating or Instrumental Insemination. Since 2015, through natural selection, the mite biting percentages have been increasing which help control the varroa populations within honey bee colonies.

Finding areas of feral honey bees allow queen producers to find areas of above average drone genetics to mate virgin queens providing a base of stock. Then queen producers can add more drone stock from their own genetic stock lines in the same area for genetic diversity. Queen breeders are constantly looking for sperm diversity to inseminate their queens. Finding drones that carry high resistance to varroa requires disciplined testing and locating gene pools of resistant stock, both in breeding programs and natural selection gene pools. Finding feral stock and testing many behaviors require 2-3 years of trapping and testing in areas at least 25 miles from each other.

When looking for favorable swarm trapping areas, there are several rules that will assist the swarm trapper to be successful in catching swarms. Adequate natural nutrition year-round, isolated areas away from commercial bees, wood lots that contain 75 to 125-year-old trees, constant clean water supplies, and low farming pressures are necessary attributes.

Traps should be located in sheltered areas away from prevailing winds, with a southern exposure, and light shade in the afternoon. Fence rows or the edge of woods are good examples of favorable areas. The traps should be in place by April 1. Foragers remember holes in cavities while flying looking for nutrition. Later, as scouts, they check out the holes in cavities to see if the cavities are suitable for their new home.

The height of the trap from the ground can be from 4’ to 10’. Position the trap entrance south to south east to allow morning sun to hit the front of the trap. A lure using lemon grass oil, which is inexpensive, will help attract the scouts to the trap. Two dark combs and 3 wax foundation frames will assist the swarm to start producing brood quickly and allow the swarm to draw comb to store nectar and pollen the first few days in its new cavity.

There are several trap styles that have been successful over the last several years. Swarm scouts look for suitable cavities with a volume of about 10 gallons. A ten frame deep super or two five frames deep Nuc supers have a volume of 10 gallons. An inner cover and outer cover will provide a dry cavity for the swarm. Paint the trap a dark green/brown to blend with the local landscape. The trap entrance should be a 6” long by 5/8” slot. The slot can be horizontal or vertical. The entrance must be 1” from the trap floor. Both configurations have successfully caught thousands of swarms over the last 10 years.
If the swarm trap is a 10-frame deep super, put the five frames to one side, the other side of the hive is left empty allowing the scouts to measure the cavity. Put a Zip Lock baggy with a paper towel with 20 drops of lemon grass oil in the open side on the trap floor. Close the baggy except for about an inch to allow the gas to escape. A twig in the open area will keep it from closing. If the trap is the double five over five deep frame style, the bottom super is left empty, allowing the scouts to measure the cavity. Put the lemon grass lure on the floor of the trap. The traps MUST be checked every 5/6 days to prevent the swarm from building wild cross comb within the trap.

After the swarm has been caught, the next step is to check for Mite Biting Behaviors. The swarm must produce e-nough brood to allow mites to grow in numbers for an accurate check on Mite Biting percentages with a digital microscope. The new swarm needs to be over a screen bottom board with a slide, to catch mites for examination with the DM3 or DM4 microscope. A minimum of 20 mites will provide a good idea if mite biting behaviors of 50 - 80% are present. If high mite biting % is occurring, monitor the colony’s mite numbers. Treat only when the numbers are above 2 mites per hundred.

The Honey Bee Health Collition has an excellent download to assist in treating/controlling mites. Feed the swarm protein and carbohydrates (sugar syrup or frames of honey) for a minimum of two to six weeks depending on natural nutrition. Grow the swarm colony to 15 frames then move into 8 or 10 frame equipment.

Tips on Swarm Trapping:
- Used equipment with wax and propolis help attract swarm scouts.
- Smearing beeswax and propolis on the inside of new equipment helps to attract scouts.
- The entrance MUST be covered with 1/2” wire hardware cloth to keep mice and birds out of the trap.
- If possible, put your trapped swarms in an isolated yard.
- Maintain a location map of your swarm traps.
- Swarm traps should be at least 500 feet from known bee tree locations.
- Swarm traps can be located ~1000’ apart within a large area.
- Traps are effective for a radius of a mile
- DM3 or DM4 Microscopes are effective at finding Mite Biting Bees -For more information check out Chasing Feral Honey Bees on Face Book.
- Reference books on swarm trapping by Dr Tom Seeley: Honey Bee Democracy and The Lives of Bees

Next Month: Using a Microscope to look for Mite Biting Behaviors. Stay Tuned!

Dwight’s Chasing Feral Bees Part 1, Part 2 and his Swarm Protocol Notes can be found at: fairfieldcountybeekeepers.org

Together Ohio - https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/resources/Together-Ohio

Ohio’s Response to COVID-19

Ohio officials are developing strategies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the concerns and uncertainties it brings, but they cannot flatten the curve on their own. Every Ohioan has a part to play in helping to save lives. For many, this will mean staying at home. For others it will mean taking care of the most vulnerable among us or providing healthcare, food, education, information, or the things we need to stay safe at home.

We are all in this together, Ohio
#InThisTogetherOhio #FlattentheCurve #SlowtheSpread

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword “4HOPE” to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.
Maumee Valley

The Maumee Valley Beekeepers have been busy in the new year. We have had guest speakers at our monthly meetings including beekeeper Andrew Carlin, who talked about marketing honey and value added products; Julie Shapiro who talked about environmental concerns; and our own member Therese Hoehn and her husband Andrew talked about their experience with an anaphylactic reaction to a honeybee stinging incident. We have completed our new beekeepers classes with 20 new beekeepers graduating. We spent a Saturday talking bees and beekeeping at the Toledo Grows seed swap. We also donated some funds to help rebuild the greenhouse at Wildwood Environmental Academy where we hold our meetings. The old greenhouse and all supplies were lost due to an arson fire. Pictured is greenhouse coordinator Katie Mantel accepting a check from MVB president Roger Myers.

BG Bee Group

We are a small group of like-minded individuals that meet on the third Thursday of the month at the Wood County District Office, 18729 Mercer Rd., Bowling Green, Ohio 43402. The meeting is from 5:30pm/7:30 pm. Additional information, contact Mike Soboleski, 419.494.2226 or email: SoBeeHoney@gmail.com.

Black Swamp Beekeepers Association

Our first meeting in February was a huge hit with April Smith from April's Greenhouse speaking about planting Ohio native pollinator plants, shrubs, and trees. She also took pre-orders from the club members to get everyone ready to plant this Spring. As with many organizations, we have had to cancel many of the outreach program dates and events.

Our 1-Day Beginner Class was attended by 38 students and more than half are taking the year long Beginner Internship. BSBA also awarded a $500 4-H Scholarship to Maddy Hedge to help her in her journey in beekeeping. She has already taken the 1-Day Beginner Class and now ready to take the Beginner Internship with her parents' support. We are now taking our club meetings and training to the virtual side with Zoom webinars.

We are monitoring events, as we are still on track for our 5X Field Day with NWOBA, MVBA, BSBA, BG Bee's, and NCOBA joining together. This will take place on June 20th, 12 pm, at the Pollinator Sanctuary & Training Facility of Defiance County.

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association

Dwight Wilson called the January meeting to order as Caiden Davis started us out with a great presentation on “Successful planning in 2020”. Andrew Carlin followed up at the February meeting talking about marketing honey and value added products.

We started our beginning beekeeping course with many new eager students wanting to succeed in beekeeping. The beginning beekeeping class and our regular association meeting has now gone virtual, via Zoom presentations. This is the perfect time to keep education going as the bees are continuing to build and the season is right around the corner.
Pollinator Sanctuary & Training Facility of Defiance County

Once the weather breaks, we will begin slit seeding Ohio native pollinator mix around the 2.4 acres around the 40' x 40' training apiary. Amy Stone has helped us with recommendations on planting pollinator friendly trees. The Defiance County Master Gardeners will help teach the proper methods of planting trees around the apiary and pond areas.

We will be holding a 5X Field Day event with hands-on training and a potluck to wrap-up the evenings events. Jerry Hayes and Barb Bloetscher will be our keynote speakers. We will have 2 sets of 6 break-outs sessions with; queen rearing, finding the queen, oxalic treatment, hive inspection, wax rendering, and more. This will be Saturday, June 20th, 12 noon, at the Defiance County Extension Office, 6879 Evansport Rd., Defiance, OH. Other things happening this year; hive rental program, queen rearing 2 day classes, visitation by the public where we place them in PPE and let them see inside a working colony. You’re welcome to check our Facebook page: Pollinator Sanctuary & Training Facility of Defiance County

Erie Basin

NCOBA

We are a new club started in Upper Sandusky for area beekeepers to get together, learn more about bee-keeping and talk with others about what everyone else is doing or seeing with their colonies. We have meet-ings on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 7pm at the Community Christian Center, 10657 Township Hwy 122, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351. Officers - Russell Boes - President, Sonny Ward - Vice President, Don Speigel - Treasurer, and Cheri Mack- Secretary.

We are currently in the process of becoming a 501c3 as well as filing for affiliation with OSBA. Check out our Facebook page at: North Central Ohio Beekeepers Association and like the page. You’re welcome to join to become a member. Dues are $10/year, family and single memberships. The March meeting was held online via Zoom focusing on Swarm Control and Splits.

SRVB

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers had a great turn out for our March meeting with about 80 people sharing the pancake and sausage dinner! Don Downs did a nice presentation on the advantages of “bee sting therapy” with some stories about how he has helped people with joint pain, bruising, breathing problems and much more. He stirred the curiosity of members who plan to research it further. President, Tom Rathbun, discussed plans for Earth Day on April 23. We will be talking to 3rd graders and handing out about 900 tree starts for them to take home and plant.

Western Reserve

Trumbull County

We had a successful Beginning Beekeeping class in February. Thank you to Heritage Farm and Apiary and Blue Sky Bee Supply for their continued support. We will be going over Spring Management and Disease Control in March.

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers welcomed 58 new families to our beginning beekeeping classes in February. We are grateful to the dedicated members who volunteered to develop the class presentations and the presenters who introduced as well as challenged the new students to backyard beekeeping. In March, Dave Noble from the Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware, Ohio discussed “Making a Plan for the Bee-keeping Year”, helping beekeepers make monthly and even weekly plans for their management and how to change and adapt that plan based on changing environmental conditions.
Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association - continued...

At the April meeting club member Allyson May will discuss the management of swarms and the making of splits in the apiary. In May the club will welcome Kim Flottum who will present Urban Beekeeping. We will also have our annual Field Day on Saturday May 16th at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - details will be available on our website. Our club meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Rocky River Nature Center on Valley Parkway in North Olmsted, Ohio. More information is always available on our website or Facebook page. Our meetings are free and open to the public.

Geauga County

The Geauga County Beekeepers have started the year with planning meetings for the upcoming year. We looked at what type of meetings we wanted so we would be able to include new beekeepers and the more experienced beekeepers. Also, we talked about our Field Day, May 9, at Case Western Reserve University farms on Fairmont Blvd. We also discussed what we wanted to do to improve our booth at the county fair was also discussed.

Our Vice President and secretary had to withdraw from activities due to personal reasons and we were able to get two volunteers to replace them. Trish Harness will be our new Vice President and August Armstrong will be our new Secretary, if no one objects. Our first speaker for the year was Dale Olson who talked about visiting Apomindia convention in Montreal this past fall. He explained how it was an international event which drew about 6,000 people for the 4 days. His power point presentation included new tools for raising bees, new electronic devices and facts about beekeepers from all over the world. A lot of information for 1 hour. Speakers for March will be Roy Hendrickson talking about Spring Management Practices and our April speaker will be Dick Cryberg, talking about What Options You Have to Deal with Varroa Mites.

There will be two sessions of bee classes for beginners on March 5 and April 9. More information can be found at geaugacountybeekeepers.org. Or call Dale Olson, 216-408-0446. Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month except in the month of April when they will be on the 4th Thursday. Times are 6:30 - 8:30 pm with a beginners question and answer period from 6-6:30pm. Most information about the bee club can also be found on our website which is updated by David Shade regularly. Our winner for a scholarship was Elizabeth P. a student from West Geauga schools. She will get a beehive, bees and a mentor to start beekeeping this year.

Ashtabula County

At our January meeting Susan Westlake from Soil and Water District gave a presentation of the types of services she can provide to our members. Susan also went over the various trees and shrubs that will be available for their spring sale. At the request of the Ashtabula County Beekeeper, several of the trees and shrubs that will planted will be bee friendly.

In January ACBA held a program at the Henderson Library for youths ages 8-18 yrs, titled: Importance of the Honey Bee. We are working with the OSU 4H Advisor to promote beekeeping to youths.

At our February meeting, Anne Hathy gave a very informative presentation on Queen Rearing and also an update on her progression in the field. She went on to explain what the purpose of the various types of equipment used in queen rearing.

ACBA is busy preparing for its Beginning Beekeeping Class being held on March 14 at Giddings Hall in Jefferson. Jen & Terry Sickafuse will be the main presenters. We are also working in partnership with the Ashtabula County Extension Office, Soil & Water District, Ashtabula County Metro Parks and Master Gardeners on our upcoming Pollinator Symposium being held on June 20 at the Ashtabula District Library. It will be followed with a guided walk at Red Brook, Ashtabula County Metropark.
Lorain County

Even though it was cold outside, our January meeting had busy bees working on the inside performing class demonstrations. Sheila St. Clair started the evening by demonstrating how to render your wax cappings and beeswax; Iris Hunt and Audrey Gargas demonstrated how to make fondant to feed your bees during those long winter months; and Brenda Leiby, Sheila St. Clair and Audrey Gargas demonstrated how to make creamed honey. Hopefully we will have more creamed honey entries and wax entries to judge at our fair this year!

![Sheila St. Clair - rendering wax]

![February Meeting]

Our February meeting started off with our annual LCBA Soup-Off, with 11 members participating. Congratulations goes to our winner, Karen Shuder with 2nd place going to Ron Knapp and 3rd place for Charlene Deshuk. Congratulations and thank you to all our participants. The members meeting took us to the website to explore Beekeeping YouTube videos. Denzil St. Clair provided the initial interpretations followed by discussion from the attending members.

Our March speaker will be the Lorain County Beekeeping Inspector, Jon Reichel, reviewing the 2019 results of Lorain County in comparison to the State of Ohio. The month of March will also start our Beginner Beekeeping Classes and we are looking forward to having more beekeepers in our club. With the installation of our Memorial Hive Garden, we look forward to providing hands-on training for all our new members!

Mark your calendars now for the LCBA Field Day on Saturday, June 6 at Queen Right Colonies in Spencer starting at 10 am. Our guest speaker will be Charles Linder covering “Beekeeping and the Myth of Modern Farming.” This is a free event and open to everyone. Afternoon breakout sessions will include Don Downs - Apitherapy; Jerry Hayes – Assessing Colony Health Part 1 and Part 2; John Rose and Phil Bartosh - My First Year in Beekeeping Part 1 and Park 2; and Tim Arhelt – What Constitutes a Healthy Colony at Different Times of the Year. Please visit [www.loraincountybeekeepers.org](http://www.loraincountybeekeepers.org)

Portage County

Portage County Beekeepers completed another successful beginners’ class educating 36 new beekeepers. Of them was one of the OSBA 4-H Beekeeping Scholarship winners and her dad. We continue to improve how we manage our club apiary at the SWCD office and are now using Hive Tracks as the record-keeping platform so that members and new beekeepers can monitor what is going on in our hives. We also plan to regularly offer members the opportunity to view the inspections of our apiary in the spring, summer, and fall this year. All our speakers are locked in for 2020 and we are excited to have a great slate of speakers this year. We are also excited to be offering a queen-rearing workshop this year as well. And for those that attended our mead workshop last year, we are anxiously awaiting the finished product that we expect in the next few months. Finally, we are in the beginning stages of planning for a fall pollinator plant sale as a fundraiser this year as well.

Name these famous beekeepers?

![Famous Beekeepers Images]
Medina Beekeepers Association
Medina hosted speaker, Bill Stitt, in January bringing the topic of Native Pollinators and Habitat to the group. We had nearly a full house in spite of the cold temperatures outside. Linda Schneider, Education Coordinator at Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District, was on hand with a table of handouts for the members. Events coming up in the future at the county offices were discussed. The winner of the chili cook off was Vanessa Spring. February continued to be mild and speaker, Denzil St. Clair, from Queen Right Colonies entertained the club with facts, stories, and suggestions on coming out of winter alive! Close to 80 attendees came to listen. Saturday beginner class attendance was close to 50. Welcome to our newest beekeepers! March’s speaker will pack the house - Dr. Jay Evans from USDA Beltsville Lab will be in the house! Make plans to attend if you are in the area. Dr. Evans will discuss his research and findings on the state of Honey Bees and Viruses. Bring a snack and your notebook. March will also wrap up the beginner class series on Tuesday evenings. This series of 5 evenings continues the entire month of March and allows those missing sections from the Saturday series to complete their class.

Top of Ohio

LMVB
Little Miami Valley Beekeepers Association first meeting of the year, with guest speaker Bill Starrett, was abuzz with beekeepers from over 5 counties. The club’s apiary is a popular educational destination before the monthly meetings. Beekeepers look ahead, and plans are already underway not only to diversify the club’s apiary, but also for the club’s well attended Honey Harvest. For more information about the club, visit: www.mvbeekapers.org. Like the 2020 beekeeping season, Greene County Beekeepers is off to a strong start, with a well-attended February member meeting, committee meetings, along with speakers and programs organized for the year. The beginner class, in conjunction with Greene County Parks and Trails, graduated over 50 enthusiastic students. Due to concern for the health of our community, we canceled our April meeting, and rescheduled our speaker for later this year. Greene County Beekeepers Association is on schedule with the rest of our spring activities and look forward to providing continuing education for new beekeepers and sharing the importance of beekeeping with the general public. missing sections from the Saturday series to complete their class.

Heart of Ohio

Fairfield County
On January 21, 2020, Fairfield County Beekeepers Association (FCBA) celebrated its first birthday. Highlights for the evening included a birthday cake, fundraising auction, and awards ceremony. The night was capped off by a presentation on late winter and spring hive management.

The auction was a success, with a plethora of items donated by members. Items included fresh fruit, hand-knitted stylish scarves, hand-painted stationery, a bottle of bourbon, an air fryer, swarm boxes, and swarm bait feeders.

The evening awards were presented by FCBA President Jeannie Saum and special guest,” The Fair Queen Fieldia, queen of the FCBA Apiary! Award recipients were Will Merrill, Mary and Dan Wampler, John Kelly, Kevin Paulus, Steve Schull, Marlene Boyer and Tom Tobin. These award winner members worked tirelessly to get the club off the ground and ensure success. Their talent and beekeeping experience are priceless.
Fairfield County - continued...

The night's presentation was given by Chris Lucas, a local engineer and full-time beekeeper from Bee Barons Apiary, of Newark, OH. The information presented on the management of late winter and spring hives appealed to beginner and veteran beekeepers alike.

Chris also brought in his Styrofoam hives and enlightened us all about the benefits of using Styrofoam boxes versus wood boxes. Chris is a wealth of information. We were fortunate to have him as our guest.

February’s meeting featured Randy Oliver from Scientific Beekeeping, all the way from California, via the online conference service, Zoom. (For a very reasonable cost of $50 for an hour presentation!) We were excited to try out this new way of getting presentations for our club. We invited presidents and one member from each of the clubs in the Heart of Ohio Region and a few others, to attend. Two folks from Greater Grand Lakes Beekeepers came from St. Mary’s, Ohio and we had two visitors from Scioto Valley Beekeepers. We also had guests, Rod Pritchard from COBA and OSBA treasurer; Nina Bagley, our Heart of Ohio Regional Director; and Barb Bloetscher, Ohio State Apiarist; in attendance.

After working out some frustrating, initial connectivity glitches (even thought we had practiced with Randy three times in weeks previous! These things happen!), we were able to get the Zoom presentation up and running. Randy had graciously rushed back home to do this presentation after getting his wife to fill in for him at the ER, where he had just taken his ill mother! We were able to see and hear Randy and he could see and hear us, using our computer cameras and large monitors available at our meeting place. Randy spoke first about diagnosing dead-outs with photos showing different causes. This was very helpful to new beekeepers and the more experienced. We were able to ask questions and he took the time to explain how certain viruses and pests harm the bees. Randy also shared about the most recent trials he is doing to refine his oxalic acid towel mite treatments and shared the data he has collected to show the effectiveness of different delivery methods of OA. His information was fascinating and useful. We hope this new way of using technology to provide quality speakers to our bee clubs will catch on with other speakers around the country! For any club interested in booking Randy Oliver for this kind of meeting, contact his through his website: scientificbeekeeping.com.

FCBA conducted its first Bee School on February 15 and Feb. 22, 2020, from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Over 50 students attended. We were able to offer a 3-hive box kit to new members through our supplier and also the opportunity to purchase nucs with Ohio mite-chewing bees, through a connection from Dwight Wells. The club will host a Build Day and potluck in late March, to teach new beekeepers how to build hive equipment. The club has also offered a Build-My- Hive Service, using club volunteers to build, for a fee for those newbies who don’t want to build their own hives! This will be a fund-raiser for the club.

COBA

Wednesday, January 15 was COBA’s first general meeting of 2020! The speaker, OSBA’s new President Peggy Garnes, spoke to us about the new focus of OSBA. In addition, Peggy discussed keeping top-bar hives in Northern Ohio. She also brought in her boxes and explained her methods. It is quite the accomplishment and feat to overwinter bees as Peggy does.

The February COBA General Meeting at the Franklin Park Conservatory featured Dr. Reed Johnson. Dr. Reed Johnson is originally from Montana where he got his start in beekeeping during a summer job.
COBA - continued...

He now is an Associate Professor in Entomology at Ohio State University, the Ohio Agricultural Research Development Center in Wooster. His main focus is on pesticide toxicology to healthy bees and pollinators and his overall focus is on bee health. At this meeting, he discussed urban beekeeping versus rural beekeeping. The outcome of his presentation was fascinating and educational.

The March General Meeting will be on March 17, at the Franklin Park Conservatory. We will have a potluck starting around 6 PM, all are encouraged to bring a dish to share. Coffee, tea and bottled water will be available for everyone to enjoy. Our speaker will be Kim Flottum, author and former editor of Bee Culture magazine. You won’t want to miss it!

COBA Advanced Bee Yard events will be on Tuesdays, 6:30 PM. Please have at least one year of experience to attend. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, from May through September. Here we will discuss beekeeping items not covered in the first year beeyard. The Advanced Bee Yard meets at the apiary at Franklin Park Conservatory, which is near the Wells Barn. Please mark your calendars!

Scioto Valley Beekeepers

The Scioto Valley Beekeepers, located in Pickaway County, held a Valentine's Day carry-in for members and guests. The carry-in is an annual event and brings together many families. Dave Noble, apiarist for the Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware, was the speaker at the recent meeting (Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday or each month.) County bee inspector Bill Huhman will be the speaker in March and former state apiarist John Grafton will speak in April. Jerry Hayes, editor of Bee Culture, will be the club's guest at the July hog roast. Openings remain for the beginning beekeeping class in April. The three-evening course provides participants with the knowledge and skills to be successful through their first year of beekeeping and beyond. More information is available at sciotovalleykeepers.com

ECOBA

During their January membership meeting, the East Central Ohio Beekeepers presented Joe & Leah Latshaw with their annual Beekeeper of the Year Award for 2019.

Our annual Earl James Beekeeping schools were held during the months of January and February, and were a huge success, with more than 90 new beekeepers attending. We also awarded a total of 4 beekeeping scholarships to young people wishing to get started in beekeeping for the year 2020. New scholarship students recently completed their beekeeping classroom work during our beekeeping school, and will be learning to build their equipment during our upcoming Build Days.

ECOBA's annual Build Day Weekend is March 21 and 22, 2020. This is a huge production where we teach new beekeepers who attended our beekeeping school, or are new members of our organization, how to build their equipment. We have a great time, amazing potluck, amazing fellowship, and see some interesting new jigs and inventions on piecing together equipment.
Our Upcoming meetings and speakers are:

ECOBA Board Meetings - currently the first Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 PM, through May then switches to the first Monday of the month for the remainder of 2020.

ECOBA monthly membership meetings - held the 3rd Thursday of the month beginning at 6:30 PM. Upcoming speakers include OSBA President Peggy Garnes, Denise Ellsworth, Dr. Meghan Milbrath from Michigan State University, and a guest speaker on AZ hives in Ohio. All meetings are held at Taft Reserve South, 10383 Fairview Rd SE Heath, OH 43056 and are open to current members and students.

Our teaching beeyard will be open, weather permitting, the week of April 13. Watch our website for updates closer to April. Annual dues renewal is in full swing. Renew your dues, or become a member by clicking on the renew dues link at www.e-coba.org.

**Crossroads**

**Stark County**

We had a successful Beginners Bee School followed by a monthly meeting on “Managing Hives for Honey Production” by Gene McCune. April 18th is Field Day with rain/snow date April 25th. Visit: starkcountybeekeepers.com for more information.

**Jefferson County**

Have rescheduled their Beginner Bee Schools due to the Covid-19 virus. Check the website for updates.

**Tuscarawas County**

Have rescheduled their Beginner Bee Schools due to the Covid-19 virus. Check the website for updates.

**Harrison County**

Harrison County Beekeepers has been busy planning the Harrison County Beekeepers Seminar on May 9th, 2020 with Dr. Kirsten Traynor. Email: harrisonbeekeepers@gmail.com for more information.

**Columbiana & Mahoning County**

Have submitted the following recipe for all to enjoy. This recipe is shared by CMCBA member Sonja Temelkoff. Many of you had the opportunity to try this at our last club meeting and found it to be so wonderfully good. Definitely a keeper of a recipe, one you’ll want to make often. The best part is that in Sonja’s recipe and all her cooking/baking she uses honey to replace sugar, no reaching for that sugar canister! Just reach for your local honey bottle, and feel good knowing what goodness is in your food!

JALAPENO HONEY CORNBREAD

Preheat to 350°-375° for 25-30 mins.

Ingredients:
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 egg
¼ cup oil
¼ to ½ cup honey
1 cup milk
1 cup cornmeal
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup chopped jalapeno peppers from a jar

Directions: Spray cake pan with butter spray
Mix all 10 ingredients together and let stand for about 30 minutes before baking
*Optional but so worth it - Honey Butter Whipped ingredients: equal amounts of butter and honey whipped together

Beekeeper: Sonja Temelkoff

**Tri-County Beekeepers**

Would like to thank everyone who helped make the 42nd Annual Spring Beekeeping Conference a success. Monthly meetings are usually the last Wednesday of the month with our field day on June 13th. Check tricountybeekeepers.org for updated information.
Miami Valley

WCOB
West Central Ohio Beekeepers Association West Central Ohio Beekeepers Association has two meeting locations, 3rd Thursday, Upper Valley Career Center, 8901 Looney Road Piqua, Ohio and Forth Thursday, University of Urbania, Student Union, Edwards Way. Our club focus is Mite Resistant Honey Bees and Helping Bees and Beekeepers. We have an Out Reach Program working with other Ohio Bee Clubs, Beekeepers In Other States and Land Grant Universities Breeding Mite Biting Resistant Bees.

Current projects include two Beginning Bee Schools In February, currently starting and working with a new Honda Beekeeping Club in Union County. Starting in April, Future projects include Swarm Trapping in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and other Midwest States. May will bring Creating Nucs and Queen production for friends and members of WCOBA, Insemination of early Breeder queens for producing production queens within the Midwest, Collaborating with other likeminded Beekeepers in Ohio and other states.

SWOBA
Unfortunately the Annual Oasis Beekeeping Classes had to be canceled this year. Look to 2021 for the next spectacular event. SWOBA is made up of beekeepers from Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, and Warren counties in Ohio and some from Indiana and Kentucky. We have some beekeepers with more than 50 years of experience. Another goal is to increase the awareness of honeybees and their importance to our environment and food supply. Producing honey with one’s own bees is certainly a satisfying by-product to keeping bees. Most members keep two to four hives, but several have seven to fifteen and a few have forty or more. Most members produce honey, beeswax, pollen, and propolis for personal use and as gifts. Some members make a part of their income from the sale of these products. Annual membership dues are Five Dollars.

https://www.swohiobeekeepers.com/

Greene County
We will be sending out seasonal beekeeping information emails to our members in order to help everyone with their spring beekeeping activities. Normal Meeting Location: Greene County Media Room, 575 Ledbetter Rd.

Upcoming Activities
We routinely meet the third Tuesday of each month, February – November at 7:00 p.m. at Greene County Media Room, 575 Ledbetter Road, Xenia, OH http://gcba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/

Ohio Valley

Gallia County
Gallia County Beekeepers Association had a good first year. Club topics the past few months have included preparing your hives for winter, winter hive checks, hive autopsies, and honeybee genetics. February meeting business topics included the election of officers, which will occur at the March meeting, youth hive donation initiative, and a public event for pollinator week. We are also in the planning stages for our annual field day in April and will announce the date once it is scheduled with the fairgrounds. We are also making plans for a public event for pollinator week.

The club has agreed to sponsor the Gallia County Beekeepers Association 2020 Youth Hive Program in conjunction with the Gallia County 4-H Program. Our very first recipient award will be made in March. Monthly meetings are held the 4th Thursday, 6-8pm at the Gallia County Extension Office, 111 Jackson Pike, Gallipolis, OH. Please use the entrance at the rear of the building. There is no July meeting due to the county fair. If you have any questions about the GCBA, you can reach Chris Blank at chris@galliabees.com November and December meeting dates will be determined at a later date. Learn more about GCBA on their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/2317700341608048/
Brown County

On February 11th, the Brown County Beekeepers Association held their first monthly meeting of 2020. A large crowd was in attendance to hear the new OSBA Traveling Speakers Program, "Successful Overwintering Your Beehive" given by Alex Zomchek, Miami Valley Regional Director of the OSBA. Applications for the Youth Hive Scholarship program were accepted and thanks to the efforts of club member Kathy Mosbaugh and the Clermont County Farm Bureau, the BCBA will be able to offer 4 students the opportunity to become beekeepers this year. The recipients of the scholarships this year are: Brooklyn Blakley, Abby Keith, Warren Murphy and Andrew Schneeman.

The Felicity-Franklin High School FFA Program of Felicity, Ohio, had recently approached the Brown County Beekeepers Association about assisting them with a pollinator project. The Agricultural Program at the school was interested in learning about beekeeping. On February 21st, two members of our club took turns addressing the Agricultural Classes during the day on the basics of beekeeping. Over 130 students were given an insight on what's required to establish and maintain honey bees. The Agricultural Program has participated in the construction of numerous Langstroth type hives and will soon begin to make Mason Bee habitats. They will be attending a field day at Patriot Bee Farms this summer. [http://browncountybeekeepersassociation.org/](http://browncountybeekeepersassociation.org/)

Highland County

The Highland County Beekeepers Association opened the year discussing winter survival. President Tom House shared the local bee school opportunities including Kentucky schools in Maysville and Louisville along with the SWOBA school cancellation at the Oasis in Loveland. The main focus of our meetings is to promote personal interaction and an open forum for conversation. We are anxious to share the knowledge of veteran beekeepers with novices looking to get started with a one on one approach. Meetings are held at 7:00pm, the third Tuesday of the month at the Highland County Administration Building downstairs.

Adams County

Adams County Ohio Beekeepers Association had its first meeting over which Vice President Dave Mangus presided. There were 43 in attendance. The Club will be partnering with Adams County Farm Bureau again this year to continue the popular Youth Hive Scholarship program. The four recipients this year are: Heidi Price, Alexis Phipps, Douglas Harfer and Vanessa Trotter. The cost of an individual membership is $10 and $15 for a family annually. Refreshments and snacks are provided at each meeting, carry in additions are always welcome. Guest speaker Richard Purdon of the Adams County Water and Soil Conservation Department will share valuable information including how to obtain free wildflower seeds if you live along a state highway. ACBA meetings start at 7pm every third Thursday of the month at the Bible Baptist Church on 41 in West Union.

For more information: [www.facebook.com/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association-214316711916893/](http://www.facebook.com/Adams-County-Beekeepers-Association-214316711916893/)

Buckeye Hills

Athens County

Athens County Area Beekeepers Association (ACABA) meets on the third Thursday of each month during the “busy bee” seasons at the Athens County OSU Extension Office. The Meetings start at 7 pm and are located at: 280 West Union Street, Athens, Ohio. Log on ACABA’s website at: [www.athensbeekeepers.org](http://www.athensbeekeepers.org)
Guernsey Noble Beekeepers

Events/Happenings: In January, Ben Nichols, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Noble County Apiary Inspector provided data information from Noble County Inspections and across Ohio. He spoke on the number of apiaries, number of colonies, growing concerns of varroa, hive beetles, diseases and other concerns in Noble County and across Ohio.

During February, Don Crock & Phil Dobeck provided a 5-hour Beginners Beekeeping Class at the OSU Extension in Belle Valley with 20 students attending. For the monthly meeting Don & Phil provided a detailed instruction on swarm traps and shared the secrets of local member Jim Smith’s methods of being so successful.

For March we were very excited to have Steve Roth, President from the Tri-State Beekeepers Association deliver a detailed and interesting topic on bee biology. Steve is an experienced beekeeper and speaker. For more information about the Guernsey Noble Beekeepers visit: www.guernsey noblebeekeepers.com

Mid-Ohio Valley

Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers held their Annual Honey Bee Expo on January 28, 2020. The Expo was very successful and had a full array of speakers including Dr. Jim E. Tew, the keynote speaker. MOVBA is dedicated to the promotion of beekeeping throughout Southeastern Ohio and Northwestern West Virginia. As a group we strive to understand both the art and the science of apiculture. MOVBA meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. For more information please see the website: www.movba.org

Tri-State Beekeepers Association

Tri-State Beekeepers Association are a group of hobbyists from Ohio, Marshall and Belmont Counties who are dedicated to promoting beekeeping. Their mission is to promote the art and science of beekeeping in the Wheeling/Tristate area and to offer educational and informational services to the public. One of their major projects include working with Harrison County by presenting the beekeeping program at the Belmont County Correctional Institute. In appreciation, the State Prison donated money to both clubs. Tri-State is using this money to provide observation hives at Oglebay Park. Tri-State Beekeepers meet monthly at the Oglebay Park Good Zoo on the third Thursday at 7:00 pm. Lyndsey Phillips a youth member was the recipient of the 4-H Scholarship Program from the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. More information about this club may be found on the website: www.tristatebeekeepers.com

Would you like to have your club/association posted in the next quarterly newsletter? The July edition deadline is June 1st. We would enjoy for you to share your article and photos from your area! If you need help, please let us know. Contact Jeff Gabric - jgabric@columbus.rr.com

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Shopping at your neighborhood Kroger while donating to OSBA - food for you means funds for the beekeeping community! OSBA is part of the 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. 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.
My first quarter report is about prepping my equipment, preparing for bees and getting them ready for Spring. The most important day was December 3, 2019 because this was the day, I found out I was chosen for the OSBA Scholarship to earn the beekeeping equipment and supplies.

Once I found out that I was chosen for the scholarship I was so excited and couldn't believe that I earned this opportunity. Then once January 18, 2020 came around, I met with the president of the Knox County Beekeepers Association (Jeff Gabric). Also, on this day I picked up all my beekeeping equipment and supplies. Following this day, January 24, 2020 was the day where I set out all my equipment and see what needed to be assembled then also this day. Then, I started building frames and the boxes.

When I started assembling my frames I first started out with a hammer and a box of nails which took me 8 minutes and 57 seconds to build one frame including the time it took me to glue the pieces in place first. In my personal opinion I do not recommend using a hammer and nails because it is very time consuming considering that I had to build 80 frames. A struggle that comes with it is trying to keep the nail straight when hammering it into the wood. This is difficult because if it is not straight it will stick out the sides of the frame and can be a real pain when you have to remove the nail with pliers.

The other way frames are assembled is by using a nail gun which took me 3 minutes and 27 seconds to build one frame which also included gluing the pieces in place first. In my personal opinion, I consider this method more proactive and less time consuming, but if it is not done right or if the nail gun is not placed in the right spot then issues start coming into play like nails shooting out the sides of the frame.

Another day that I enjoyed was February 29, 2020 because this day was when I got to attend the Knox County Beekeepers Association's 2020 Beginners Bee Class. During this class I learned some information but a lot of information I already knew. This class included topics ranging from Hive Parts, Choosing Hive Locations, Bee Installation, Honeybee Biology, etc.

Thanks to Jeff Gabric, Carson O'Neil, Chris Moore, Jordan Miller, Richard and Gail Shoots, Mike Montgomery and so many more for putting this class on. It was really well done. If you want to get into beekeeping I completely recommend this class.

Here are some pictures that were taken during this quarter of my beekeeping experience.

As a first-time beekeeper, I am learning so much about building/painting the woodware (hammering nails straight can be challenging), putting the components together, and getting the boxes together for a solid placement in order to get my bees settled in for spring, and to get them ready to start drawing comb. Helping me along the way is the Knox County Beekeepers Association which is putting on a Beginners Beekeeping class, that I am attending.

For the second part of my Beekeeping Journey; Education and Communication, I am speaking and handing out flyers for families at an Educational Center's Spring Break Kick-Off and a nursing home. I also spoke about the plight of bees at the Ohio State Grange Public Speaking Contest and got many questions about making bee nesting places. Lastly, I launched my social media page on Facebook: Bee Pals Ohio.
Hello! My name is Natalie Rice, I’m 12 years old, and a member of Portage County Unleashed 4-H Club.

I would like to thank the Ohio State Beekeepers Association for giving me this opportunity to get started in beekeeping. I recently attended the Introduction to Beekeeping Workshop that was put on by the Portage County Beekeepers. My dad and I learned a lot and found out there is so much more we need to know. This spring and summer are going to be all about the bees! After the workshop we started to build our boxes. I learned how to use an air nailer and it was pretty awesome! We have found a great spot in our yard to place the boxes and we hope to do that this weekend. I’m really excited for our bees to arrive.

I am so happy to have received this scholarship, and to be keeping bees! I can't wait to finish assembling my hives. I have a feeling that painting them will be my favorite part. Since the weather has been bad I have not been able to do much, but now that it's getting warmer out I just can't wait to set up the hives and get my bees! Soon I will be going to an event at Heritage Farm. I'll get to suit up and get used to being around bees. I can't wait! It sounds like a lot of fun.

One of the parts I've had the most fun with is working on slowly assembling my hives, waiting for the weather to warm up and stay that way. It's been hard waiting, but I have a feeling that it'll warm up soon. My grandfather has been helping me assemble the hive. He has also made top bar hives, which are a much different type of bee hive than what I will be using.

I am so grateful for this fantastic opportunity. Without it, starting a successful hive would be a million times harder. I can't wait to paint my hive, and get my bees.

I have been busy getting ready for my hives. My dad helped me level a section near our garden for my beehives. It is near a water source and has a lot of sunlight throughout the day. I will pick up my two bee packages on March 31st. I am currently taking a novice bee course at the local community college for a refresher on beekeeping. I took this course once before in 2018. The course is six weeks long. I will set up my brood boxes in a week or so, once I figure out what color I want to paint them.

OSBA and beekeepers across Ohio, wish you ladies the best for this beekeeping season. We look forward to your reports and progress in learning this great hobby.
Enjoy some bee friendly fun!

Do you know this about the honeybee?

Across
2 The most common strain or race of honey bee in the U.S.
6 Basal segment of the antenna.
7 Upturned hook on the front Margin of each hind wing.
10 These honey bees are an Old World strain known for their gentleness and productivity.
11 The trochanter, femur, tibia are associated with the honey bee’s __________.
12 Bees, ants, wasp, hornets belong to this order.
13 Individual cells and tissues within the honey bee that receives oxygen.
15 Lobe at the tip of the tongue shaped like a spoon.
16 The basal segment of the leg.
17 The first enlarged segment of the honey bee foot.
19 Pollen basket.

Down
1 Mushroom shaped bodies in the worker honey bee are associated with the:
3 Structure in front of the base of the forewing.
4 The greatest diversity of honey bees species in the world occurs in:
5 This permits the blood to enter the chambers sits within in the sides of the heart.
8 Overwinters as small colonies and with small food consumption.
9 The forewings are attached to this thoracic segment.
11 Upper lip.
14 Honey bees belong to the family:
18 When a bee walks on a smooth or slippery surface this fleshy lobe is used.
What is the OSBA Affiliate Program?

OSBA understands the issues facing local associations here in Ohio. Resource demands, financial, volunteer time and effort, etc. to run a successful association continue to increase. Protecting officers and club members with appropriate insurance, completing paperwork and financial statements and effectively communicating information in a timely fashion can all take time away from planning and conducting informational and fun association meetings.

OSBA has taken steps to alleviate many tasks and free up time and money through our OSBA Affiliate Program. Participation relieves the local association board of many paperwork and documentation tasks, provides financial savings on insurance needs and affords the use of the OSBA nonprofit status for the benefit of the local club.

Following the steps to become an OSBA Affiliate can help create a stronger, more financially stable local association. Your board will have more time to focus on the needs of your local beekeeping community.

Benefits include:

- 501c3 status under the OSBA umbrella
- Access to discounted club insurance – Liability and Director/Officer insurance
- Website hosting and assistance with website setup
- Reduction in yearly tax filing paperwork
- Nonprofit status through the OSBA group exemption
- Annual reports to the IRS and Ohio Attorney General
- Directors and Officers Insurance for your Board
- 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

If you would like more information about the OSBA Affiliate Program, please contact: president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org or treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
I’m Carmen Conrad and I show honey! You could say I am addicted to entering honey shows: local county fairs, Ohio State Fair, district shows (Eastern Apiculture Association), and national (American Beekeeping Association).

Many of you might wonder, why have honey competitions or honey shows; and even more wonder, why support them by entering? I believe there are many good reasons and here are a few:

1. Honey shows at state and county fairs give the public the opportunity to see honey in a variety of forms they never get to see in their grocery stores, often even frames of honey and observation hives.
2. Local beekeeping associations may be given space for an educational booth for supporting the honey competition. Informing the public of the importance of the honey bee, problems facing bees and beekeepers, and what the public can do to help is a vital role of these displays. An informed public will be more likely to support beekeeping issues.
3. If a state or county fair feels there is not an interest in classes of a competition, they often drop them from the books. The Ohio State Fair had no honey competition for 12 years, until the OSBA negotiated with the fair board and we now have a wonderful “Honey Pavilion” located at the Kasich patio the last 7 days of the fair, and a honey competition in Kasich Hall. The Franklin county fair also had dropped honey from their books and are now working with a local bee association to bring it back.
4. It’s really great to be able to brag about your award winning honey. Seriously, it can be a useful marketing tool.

Hopefully I have convinced a few of you to take up the challenge and enter some competitions. So how do you get started?

First you need to find a show that is available for you to enter. Right at the top should be the Ohio State Fair. If you have bees anywhere in Ohio you are eligible. To check this out, go to www.ohiostatefair.com/culinary and click on baking and cooking. The 2020 Ohio State Fair runs from July 29 – Aug. 9. Deadline to enter is June 20. To find information on county fairs, Google: 2020 Ohio Agricultural Fair Schedule for a list of dates and websites. If your county doesn’t have a honey division, check counties near you as some counties allow beekeepers of adjoining counties to enter. Make sure you will be able to deliver entries on the required date. Read all class requirements, then read them again.

Now how do you prepare your honey, pollen, wax products, etc, to earn top points from the judge? You can get information from books on the subject – one written by Ohio beekeeper Jim Thompson years ago is still one of the best on the subject. Check with OSBA about its availability. The best way is a visual hands on presentation by someone familiar with showing honey and has won awards. OSBA can suggest names of people to give a presentation at your local association. Some of these would be the beekeepers working with OSBA to obtain their honey judging certification.

You also learn by doing. You should receive a score sheet on your entries that often points out strong areas and where you might need more work. If you don’t, find out from your show supervisor if they use a certified honey judge. If not ask them to get in touch with OSBA for a list of judges. If you don’t feel they will do this, ask OSBA to get in touch with them to offer help.

New beekeepers, you are not off the hook. You may not have a honey harvest the first couple years – but check out the fairs. They have classes you might be able to fill, such as photography or cooking with honey. Soaps and lip balms can be made with such a small amount of honey and/or wax, it can be gathered from burr comb. Visiting honey shows at different fairs can be entertaining and educational even for beekeepers. Some counties have excellent displays. Two that I know of are Lorain County and Medina County and of course the Ohio State Fair. Volunteering at these fairs is fun, entertaining, educational and vital to the success of these shows.
Ohio State Beekeepers Association can always use volunteers and vendors. If you or your club would like to participate at this year's Ohio State Fair bee pavilion, please contact the fair manager by the end of June for volunteering. For vendors, contact the fair manager by the end of April to secure a space and table.

Nina Bagley - Fair Manager - ninabagley@me.com  614.783.7868
As beekeepers, to take proper care of our bees, we need to know about three important things that are all based on the weather and climate.
1. Plant phenology (what are the plants doing in this season?)
2. What are the bees doing?
3. What do we, as beekeepers, need to be doing?

The one of the trickiest parts of beekeeping is that nothing is exact - it all depends on the climate and weather, which is different every year and so unpredictable here in Ohio. A great resource for finding out exactly what the weather’s effect is on the bees' plant food sources is the Growing Degree Days calculator available online from Ohio State University. It will show you the plant phenology - exactly what plants are growing and blooming on a specific day in your zip code. It is a great resource for beekeepers to help know when pollen and nectar sources are available. Find it here: [https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/](https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/)

Since plant pollen and nectar are the food sources for bees, plant phenology has a great effect on what the bees do at any given time. Spring and early summer in Ohio have varied and unpredictable weather and temperatures. Plant growth and bloom time vary because of this. So, with the understanding that nothing is written in stone, here are some guidelines covering the plants, the bees and the beekeeper for the next three months.

### April

**The Plants**
In general, these are the trees and plants that will bloom in April, providing pollen and nectar sources for our bees.
- Trees - maple, redbud, elm, poplar, cottonwood, weeping willow
- Shrubs - serviceberry, spicebush, willow, witch hazel, forsythia, quince
- Flowers - dandelions, deadnettle, wild strawberry, yellow rocket
- Heaviest nectar flows begin in the third week of April and lasts for about two months.

**The Bees**
- Queen is laying
- Bees bringing pollen to the hive
- Drones appearing
- Population of hive is building
- Need 3 - 4 frames of honey in hive for cold or rainy days - need to be fed

**The Beekeeper**
- Remove any winter protection that is still on.
- On warm day, do first complete inspection. Look for queen, eggs, brood, good laying pattern.
- Later in April, on a warm and still day - reverse the hive bodies - especially if bottom box is mostly empty.
- Install new bee packages during April.
- Feed 1:1 syrup to help hive build up - continue until they stop taking it. No supers on while feeding!
- Keep pollen patties on.
- Add honey supers as soon as bees stop taking syrup - usually by mid-April. Some suggest adding 2 supers at a time. It takes 2 supers of nectar for the bees to evaporate down to one super of honey!
- Equalize by adding frames of brood to smaller hives or combine struggling hives
- Watch for swarm indicators - bees do swarm in April - swarm cells along bottom of frames, make sure they have enough space for laying and for food stores.
- Be aware of farming practices - corn planting releases pesticides into the air. Ask farmers to notify you of planting or chemical applications, so you can possibly close up or cover your hives for the day.
- Begin monthly monitoring for Varroa mites. Two or more mites (per 100 bees) from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol wash - treat.
- April work takes about 3 hours.
May

The Plants
- Trees - maple, elm, willow, poplar continue; oak, hawthorn, black locust, olive, fruit trees and crab apple
- Shrubs - elderberry, honeysuckle, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries,
- Flowers - dandelions, deadnettle, wild strawberry, yellow rocket, mustard, clover

The Bees
- Rate of hive growth increases a lot - lots of laying, brood rearing, foraging for nectar and pollen
- Very active queen - greatest rate of egg laying
- Drone population growing.
- Varroa mite population is building.
- Swarm season

The Beekeeper
- Inspections every 1- 2 weeks
- Look for solid brood pattern, the queen and/or eggs, pollen and nectar
- Evaluate colony growth and available room
- Make sure hive is not honey-bound (honey in or around the brood nest that restricts the access of the queen from other areas where she would lay eggs). Move honey combs out of brood nest into a super.)
- Monitor for pests and diseases
- Any mite treatments should be off before supers added
- Keep records of inspections
- Have extra equipment on hand to house swarms!
- Time Spent. Estimate 4-5 hours this month

June

The Plants
- Trees - black locust, tulip poplar, hawthorn, autumn olive, willow, pear, plum apple, cherry, basswood/linden, catalpa, sumac, Russian olive
- Shrubs - honeysuckle, elderberry, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes
- Flowers - deadnettle, dandelion, clovers, milkweed, birds foot trefoil, vetch, chicory, purple loosestrife, knapweed
- Major nectar sources begin to disappear later in June

The Bees
- Un-swarmed colonies will be boiling with bees
- Queen’s rate of egg laying may drop a bit
- Main honey flow this month
- Continued drone rearing.
- Bearding - bees gathered and hanging on outside of hive - NORMAL - they are hot!
- Swarm season continues.
- Varroa mite population continues to build

The Beekeeper
- Inspections 1 - 2 times a month
- Look for solid brood pattern, queen and/or eggs, colony growth, room, pests and diseases
- Add supers if the brood chambers are full and the population/stores growing.
- Water source important - can use feeders for just water.
- Two or more mites (per 100 bees) from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol wash, you will want to treat.
- Set up bait hives if you want to catch a swarm!
- Can extract spring honey.
- You may be able to trap pollen.
- A good month to requeen if necessary.
- Time Spent. Estimate 4-5 hours.

Good luck this spring and summer with your bees! Happy beekeeping!
Dear EAS Members,

At our Board of Directors meeting held on March 21, 2020 we discussed the possibility of not being able to hold the EAS 2020 conference. Consideration has been given to the evolving Corona Virus Situation. Currently the University of Maine Orono where the 2020 EAS conference is planned is closed. A number of other Universities have suspended on campus classes, activities and graduation through the end of this current semester.

Continued planning for the conference is difficult due to our concern for the safety of our attendees, and cancellation deadlines. Our Executive board will need to make a decision in early April. We know that many of you are being impacted by the need to take care of your loved ones, reduced hours or loss of employment, closure of schools and daycare providers. We know that this makes planning for your attendance at the conference difficult.

We are considering offering Webinars and Journal articles exclusively to our members in the event that the conference needs to be cancelled.

We will not be opening registration until the Executive Board makes a final decision. We appreciate your patience and flexibility during this difficult time.

In this crisis EAS still needs your support, we hope you will keep your membership up to date. Most importantly please take care of yourselves, loved ones, your neighbors and fellow beekeepers and our beloved bees. We will get through this!

Online registration is open!

HAS is, of course, watching the developments across the nation. Fortunately, we are in a position that we can continue planning for our conference. The HAS board wants potential attendees to know that their registration fees will be refunded if the conference must be canceled. Visit our website to register online today! Visit: https://www.heartlandbees.org/register-today/

American Beekeeping Federation

$100 ABF Sponsorships Available
Monitor Your Hives for Varroa and Nosema

For the second year in a row, the ABF and the Bee Informed Partnership have come together to help ABF members monitor their colonies through the Sentinel Apiary Program. The first 50 ABF members who sign up for Sentinel will get $100 off their testing kit! Participating beekeepers will be responsible for the remaining $175, plus $5-10 per month for shipping samples via USPS. It's a small price to pay for peace of mind.

If you haven’t signed up for the Sentinel Apiary Program yet, make sure you do that soon! Sampling begins in May, and spring is right around the corner. To sign up: Use Coupon Code ABF2020
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PRE-ORDER NOW
to be ready for the 2020 season!

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Conference Speakers

• Ernesto Guzman, Professor and Head of the Honey Bee Research Centre, University of Guelph, ON
• Sue Cobey, New World Carniolan Breeding Program, WA
• Samuel Ramsey, USDA-ARS, Bee Research Laboratory, Beltsville, MD
• Cindy Bee, Master Beekeeper, Certified Educator for the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective, WV
• Sam Abben, USDA-ARS, Bee Research Laboratory, Beltsville, MD
  • Phil Craft, Veto-pharma, ABJ contributor
  • Jennifer Lund, State Apiarist, Maine
  • Kim Skrym, State Apiarist, Massachusetts
• Andrea Nurse, Paleoecology Research Associate, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, Orono
• Eric Venturini, Pollinator Conservationist, Xerces Society & NRCS
• Tucka Saville • Michael Young, MBE
• Tom Seeley • Maggie Wachter • and many more!

Short Course Tracks
Beginner • Intermediate • Advanced
Beyond Honey • Microscopy • Queen Rearing

Workshops
Pollen ID • Beeswax • Photography • Mead Making
Cooking with Honey • Recipe-to-Market • and more!

Kids & Bees Children’s Program
with Sarah Red Laird, “Bee Girl”

Special Events
Lobster Bake & Picnic • Story Concert
Field Trip To Swan’s Honey & Humble Abodes

Master Beekeeper Certification
Author Book Signings • Honey Show
Honey Exchange
Live & Silent Auctions • Open Hive Demos
and much more!

www.mainetourism.com
There was a time when almost every rural British family who kept bees followed a strange tradition. Whenever there was a death in the family, someone had to go out to the hives and tell the bees of the terrible loss that had befallen the family. Traditionally, the bees were kept abreast of not only deaths but all important family matters including births, marriages, and long absence due to journeys. If the bees were not told, all sorts of calamities were thought to happen. This peculiar custom is known as “telling the bees”. The typical way to tell the bees was for the head of the household, or “goodwife of the house” to go out to the hives, knock gently to get the attention of the bees, and then softly murmur in a doleful tune the solemn news. Little rhymes developed over the centuries specific to a particular region. In Nottinghamshire, the wife of the dead was heard singing quietly in front of the hive “The master's dead, but don't you go; Your mistress will be a good mistress to you.” In Germany, a similar couplet was heard—“Little bee, our lord is dead; Leave me not in my distress”.

This is 1800’s old tradition among beekeepers to “Tell the Bees” continuing with this tradition, OSBA wanting to recognize any beekeepers that have recently passed away. All associations or individuals are asked to forward the name and home county of the beekeeper and the date of death, if available. Any personal info may also be beneficial such as how long they may have kept bees, any offices they may have held in beekeeping associations, etc.

Notify David Crawford, at: davidcrawford43113@gmail.com or 431 Court Street, Circleville, OH 43113 if you have notices to provide to the newsletter.

If you’ve been around beekeeping very long you know the name.

Stoller, for three generations, has owned one of the country’s preeminent honey-packing businesses in the U.S.

Darl Stoller, who helped carry on the business his father founded in 1961, died Jan. 10 at the age of 89. A prominent figure in Ohio beekeeping and commercial honey-packing, Darl worked most of his life in Latty, Ohio with family-owned Stoller Honey Farms.

He held offices in the Ohio State Beekeeping Association, including president, and was a former director of the EAS in addition to member of many national beekeeping and industry organizations.

Despite his stature of having one of the largest beekeeping businesses in the country (at one time nearly 4,000 hives in several states) his amiable personality made him an approachable and popular figure at beekeeping conferences. Even in later years when he was still able to attend state and national meetings, he would attract circles of friends and well-wishers. “Dad always enjoyed his bee meetings and he loved being around people,” recalled daughter Marsha Scheitlin.

A collector of books on beekeeping, honey pots and honey tins, Darl became a respected expert on old beekeeping equipment and gadgets.

“Dad wrote a monthly column in the 70s that appeared in Gleanings in Bee Culture,” recalled Marsha. “Collector's Corner’ pertained to the history of his own collections of bee items and was quite detailed. He had a desire to create a museum but it never happened.”

Stoller Honey Farms also patented and produced a metal frame spacer – the precursor to many sold on the market today.
Darl, with brother Gale, carried on the family business after the death of their father, Irvin, in 1975. The business managed the ebb and flow of financial challenges facing the honey industry at the time, and underwent various transitions as family members left the business to pursue other opportunities.

In 1995, Darl’s son, Kirk, took a more prominent role in the operation and with his influence improved the company’s physical facilities and charted a steadier and improved financial course. Kirk continues in the business today.

Although the Stoller Honey Farms retail business no longer exists on the same large scale, the Stoller name remains forever cemented in history as a quality honey brand that for a half-century was prominent on store shelves around the Midwest.

As Darl’s beekeeping career was winding down and the pace slowing, Marsha recognized her dad as being his happiest. “I believe the point of most satisfaction for Dad was when it was just Kirk and himself. Business was good and he was just enjoying the bees.”

**OSBA Underserved Grant**

The OSBA Board has approved funding for 5 underserved grants to be awarded in 2020. This grant provides a library of five beekeeping books, a year’s subscription to both national beekeeping magazines, along with an OSBA subscription to the newsletter. 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, contact OSBA Treasurer, for details and the grant application:

[treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org)

**Suggestion Box**


OSBA wants to hear from you! Share your suggestions for the website, newsletter, and programming. Share a concern or problem about beekeeping in Ohio. If you do want to contact a specific individual directly, you can find their contact information on the Officers & Staff, page 45.

Suggestions and comments can no longer be left anonymously. We can only reply to submissions that contain email and/or phone number. Your suggestion/comment will be routed to the appropriate party. Please note, all submitted suggestions are automatically archived and made available for all board members to view.
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2020 BEE PACKAGES

- Italians - $120
- Russians - $125

Tentative Pickup Dates in Clyde, OH:
- March 25th
- April 8th
- April 22nd
- May 6th

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(419) 355 - 7223
Ohio-Bees.com
@LeibengoodFamilyApiaries
@LeibengoodBees
Per ORC Apiary Law, any beekeeper who plans to sell Queens, nucs, packages or hives from his/her bees MUST be inspected and have a “Certificate of Inspection” (Health Certificate) each season that they are to be sold. The law was designed to protect beekeepers from buying unhealthy queens and colonies which can happen if bees have underlying diseases or the queen doesn’t develop properly as a larva if the colony(s) is sick.

In the past, Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Apiary Section has tried to renew and issue new certificates by May 31 each year. However, due to inclement weather the inspectors have not always been able to finish all the inspections by then. It is important for us to encourage beekeepers who are raising and selling healthy bees in Ohio and not inhibit your business, therefore we have changed the policy to enable you to sell bees and queens with a valid Inspection Certificate for the season.

Below is the new policy for Acquiring a Queen Certificate:

1. Apiaries which received a Queen Certificate in 2019 will be automatically certified for the current season, but they still MUST be inspected sometime in the season.

2. New Certificates
   • Apiaries with a request for the first time should be inspected by June 1st of the current year if at all possible.
   • New (and registered) apiaries of beekeepers that have a certificate in other yards should have the new yard inspected by June 1st if possible.
   • Beekeepers who were denied a certificate in previous year due to disease or pest should have their yard inspected by June 1st.

* To protect all beekeepers, including our inspectors from the Coronavirus, inspections will be done as soon as possible this year, but may not occur by June 1.

NO Consent

• For Beekeepers who want to receive a Queen Certificate but wish to file a “NO Consent”, remember that the law mandates that all Queen rearing yards must be inspected; therefore, the “No Consent” Rule does NOT APPLY to any Queen rearing yards.

• If you do not want to have your apiaries inspected, please contact the office and explain the situation. If necessary, the State Apiarist will conduct the inspection.

Additional Notes

• If you do not plan to sell or give away queens or nucs (or splits), please do not check the box indicating that you want a certificate.

• If you have fewer than 5 colonies and want to give away or sell splits, DO check the request for a certificate. Your apiary will be inspected and if the colonies are healthy, your yard will receive a certificate.

* Please work with your County Inspectors. Many are limited on the number of trips they can make and cannot make multiple trips to the same part of the county.

Barbara Bloetscher
State Apiarist/Entomologist
Ohio Department of Agriculture
Office: 614-728-6373 Fax: 614-728-6453
BBloetscher@agri.ohio.gov

ODA Apiary website:
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**Bee City USA**
Bee City USA fosters ongoing dialogue in urban areas to raise awareness of the role pollinators play in our communities and what each of us can do to provide them with healthy habitat. The Bee City USA program endorses a set of commitments, defined in a resolution, for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet.
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You can help the Ohio State Beekeepers Association raise money to support 4H and education for young beekeeper just by doing something you do already. When you Shop at Amazon.com, using the following link, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the OSBA.
[http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/about-osba/amazon/](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/about-osba/amazon/)
Shop Now: [http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/amazon](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/amazon)
2020 Officers, Staff & Newsletter Deadlines

http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/associations/local-associations/

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

OSBA Executive Committee

President Peggy Garnes 330.723.6265 president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
Vice-President Tom Rathbun 419.603.1749 vice-president@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
Secretary Tim Arheit 419.371.1742 secretary@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
Treasurer Rod Pritchard 614.216.3386 treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
Past President Terry Liberman-Smith 937.272.6549 pastpresident@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

OSBA Regional Directors & Regional Representatives

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Maumee Valley Regional Rep. Roger Myers 567.686.5698 rogerjudy@msn.com
Erie Basin Regional Director Linda Miller 419.552.9242 eriebasinmillers@gmail.com
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Ohio Valley Regional Rep. Jim Hopkins 513.518.8961 jigo64@gmail.com
Buckeye Hills Regional Director Don Crock 740.581.1883 doncrock@yahoo.com
Buckeye Hills Regional Rep. *

Staff Appointments

Newsletter Editor Jamie Walters 419.438.7335 editor@ohiostatebeekeepers.org
Hive Digest Editor Jamie Walters 419.438.7335 j.walters1054@yahoo.com
Webmaster Tim Arheit 419.371.1742 webmaster@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Quarterly Newsletter - Deadlines

January Edition  Articles / Photos  December 1st
April Edition  Articles / Photos  March 1st
July Edition  Articles / Photos  June 1st
October Edition  Articles / Photos  September 1st
How many flowers does it take to make 1 pound of honey?

A. 2 million flowers
B. 5,000 flowers
C. 1.5 million flowers

How much honey does the average worker make in her lifetime?

A. 1 tablespoon
B. ½ tablespoon
C. ⅛ teaspoon

H = Head
O = Ocellus
F = Compound Eye
Ant = Antennae
Lm = Labrum
Md = Mandible
Lb = Labial Palpus
Mx = Maxilla
Prb = Proboscis
Gls = Glossa
Th = Thorax
Tg = Tegula
L1 = Antennae Cleaner & Foreleg
L2 = Middle Legs
L3 = Pollen Press & Baskets
Sp = Spiracle
W = Forewing
W3 = Hindwing
1 = Prothorax
2 = Mesothorax
3 = Metathorax
Ab = Metasoma
I = Propodeum
II = Singular Tergum
III = Plural Terga
IV = Plural Terga
V = Plural Terga
VI = Plural Terga
VII = Plural Terga
Sp = Spiracle
Stn = Stinger
Ohio State Beekeepers Association 2020 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
955 Murnan Road
Galloway, OH 43119

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)
☐ I would like to be on the OSBA Swarm List

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

Membership is based on the calendar year, January through December
OSBA is a 501c3. Donations may be tax-deductible.

Ohio Beekeeping is the official publication of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions are included with membership in OSBA. Send news about your bees and your experiences, as well as any corrections, letters, comments, photographs, story suggestions, interviews, and additional requests to:

Jamie Walters
24645 Flory Road
Defiance, OH 43512
Or email: editor@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

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Thank you on behalf of our collective newsletter colony,
Happy New Year!

Lyson & BeeMax®
Polystyrene hives are thicker than the traditional wooden hives and provide more insulation. Better insulation moderates temperature fluctuation in both winter and summer. We offer two different types of polystyrene hives: Lyson and BeeMax®. New for 2020: we now carry the Lyson 8/9 frame hive!

Bee Feed
Winter and pollen patties are a great solid feed for your bees. Winter patties are used as an emergency bee feed for colonies in late winter. They provide necessary carbohydrates to keep colonies from starving. Pollen patties contain protein to stimulate brood rearing, which is helpful if natural spring pollen flows are delayed or interrupted. Make sure you provide the right patty for the time of season!

BetterComb
Assemble your BetterComb frames now to prepare for new package or nuc installations this Spring! BetterComb is a completely drawn comb made of food-grade, virgin, synthetic wax, similar to the composition of beeswax. Once installed in the frame, just pop it in the hive. It provides ready space for brood, nectar, or pollen storage.
Check out betterbee.com/bettercomb for assembly instructions and other information.