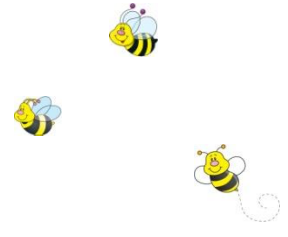


The Skep



President's Corner

Hello Beekeepers!

Last month we had a great turnout! There are lots of new members interested in learning about beekeeping and we had the opportunity to tell them about Beginning Beekeeping Classes offered in the upcoming weeks.

We passed around the Swarm List at the meeting also. Please be sure to sign up if you are interested in being on the list. Also make sure you have enough empty boxes with frames to hold swarms.

The Western PA Seminar is February 13 and 14. They will take walk ins but will not provide lunch unless you are pre-registered.

At the February meeting we will talk about what everyone learned at the West Virginia or Pennsylvania seminars.

This month's Beekeeping To-Do List includes cleaning and culling old frames and foundation, painting boxes, building new equipment, making sure

your bees have food, clearing entrances of hives to ensure good air flow and learning something new such as queen rearing, candle-making, soap making, collecting pollen or producing comb honey.

Now is also a great time to learn about the different chemicals for treating varroa mites or IPM (Integrated Pest Management) that is a non-chemical way of dealing with mites.

I hope to see you at the February meeting! Stay warm!

Bruce Deafenbaugh

2015 Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations

March 15	Experimental Farm
April 19	Experimental Farm
May 17	Marsha & Dave Coakley
June 21	Bruce & Andrea Deafenbaugh
July 19	Bruce & Michele Zimmer
August 16	Don Kovach's Parents' Home
September 20	Nick Deemer
October 11	Fellows Riverside Gardens

February Meeting Details

Sunday, February 15, 2015

Potluck Lunch 1:00 p.m.

(Bring your own plates, cups and silverware please.)

Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Mahoning County Experimental Farm
7574 Columbiana-Canfield Rd
Canfield, Oh 44406

From Rt 11 North take the Ohio 46 exit toward OH-14. Turn left onto OH-46 North for approximately 6.2 miles. The Farm is on the left across the street from the Canfield Fairgrounds.

From Rt 11 South take exit 34 for US-224 toward Poland/Canfield. Continue on Fairground Blvd. for about 1.7 miles until you reach OH-46 South. Turn left onto OH-46 South. The Farm will be on the right across the street from the Canfield Fairgrounds.



Beekeeping in February

Beekeeping is not a fair weather activity. It involves year round dedication. Even as it snows in February the bees are preparing for the early nectar flow. Brood rearing is beginning again and the cluster is challenged to care for its growing population. Beekeepers need to follow suit and prepare for spring as well. So what should you be doing?

Visiting your apiary is a nice reminder of warmer weather. Beekeepers should ensure that the top is still in place on each hive and clear entrances of snow and debris. Checking food stores can be done on sunny, warm days. Dead-outs should be removed and cleaned out as soon as possible.

Now is a great time to clean and scrape frames, hive bodies, bottom boards and covers that are not in use. It's also a great time to paint them as needed and clean feeders. Along the same lines, this is an excellent opportunity to assemble new items. Equipment should be ready to use before it is needed in the spring.

While cleaning and painting, think about last season. Ask yourself what worked well and what would you like to change. What are your goals for the upcoming year?

In addition to the providing time to complete preparation work, February offers a chance to learn more about honey bees and plan for a successful season. Attend seminars, classes and

association meetings and talk with other beekeepers. These gatherings are enjoyable and offer so much up-to-date information. Read the latest books and articles about the various aspects of beekeeping. The more knowledge you have, the better you will feel about your beekeeping plans and goals.

February is a perfect opportunity to review the past year and prepare for this upcoming one. Even though beekeepers are not busy in the apiary, there are plenty of beekeeping tasks to complete.

Resources:

Back Yard Beekeepers Association. The Beekeeper's Year. Back Yard Beekeepers Association Website. Retrieved on January 23, 2015 from <http://www.backyardbeekeepers.com/to-do.html>.

Burns, David. Spring Management of Overwintered Colonies. Long Lane Honey Bee Farms Website. Retrieved on January 23, 2015 from <http://www.honeybeesonline.com/blesson30.html>.

January Meeting Revisited

The group welcomed several new members to our ranks at the January meeting of the Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers' Association. It was fantastic to see and talk with so many current members also!

The start of a new year and planning for a successful season dominated the discussion. Bruce went over the 2015 budget and explained what various expenses were included. After a brief discussion the membership voted to accept the budget as written. Summer meeting locations were tentatively determined as well.

Bruce reminded the group to check the hives as soon as a warmer day arrived and prepare to provide food as necessary.

Early Spring Apiary Management

With spring just around the corner it is time to think about cleaning up the apiary and rebuilding any lost hive numbers. When preparing to complete spring tasks, it is important to consider the variety of weather conditions that are experienced in Ohio during the early weeks of spring. An observant beekeeper will note the daytime temperatures and work in the apiary on warmer days so the bees are not stressed.

Spring Clean Up



Spring cleaning is always a refreshing

undertaking. It is much easier to accomplish a little bit at a time rather than leaving it until mid-spring to clean up the hives. Scraping the burr comb from the top frames and removing paper remnants left over from pollen patties or the Mountain Camp Method of feeding is a first step. Then carefully take the bottom board away from the apiary to scrape the debris and dead bees that have accumulated on the floor of the hive. It is important to collect all burr comb and remove the dead bees from the hive yard to avoid attracting raccoons or skunks.

Next begin frame culling. Cull out frames removing about one third of your frames each year after the first three to five years. Keeping this rotation will ensure a complete turnover of frames every 5 years.

Replacing frames will reduce pesticide accumulation, disease build-up and excessive drone comb. Spring is an optimal time to remove aging frames because they can be pulled from the edge of the hive in order to avoid compromising the colony strength. Preferably, replace the culled frames with drawn frames from newer honey supers, but, if need be, with frames containing fresh foundation.

Finally, remove any dead colonies that remain in the apiary and clean the equipment. Weather conditions can make this task difficult in January and February but getting to it as soon as possible will make this task much easier. Plucking every dead bee from the comb is not necessary but removing the bulk of the decaying matter will control the unpleasant odor as well as preventing mold from growing. Completing this task also prepares the apiary for new packages or splits to help the rebuilding process.

Early Spring Feeding



March is an important month for the growth of the

honey bee population. A hive requires one frame of nectar and one frame of pollen to produce each frame of brood. During this time a beekeeper can offer pollen patties or dry pollen substitute. Although night time temperatures will dip below freezing occasionally it is helpful to feed using a one to one ratio sugar syrup. The recipe for spring

feeding is one part sugar to one part water. While it is still cold, using a Boardman Feeder is unadvisable. A better alternative would be to use a division board feeder or a top feeder. During the period of time before the first nectar flow feeding not only helps sustain a colony as it steadily increases in size, it helps get the bees excited to forage. It acts as a morale booster of sorts.

Early spring provides opportunities to spend quality time in the apiary. Using that time to one's advantage will get the 2015 season off to a great start for the honey bees and beekeeper as well.

Resources:

Connor, Larry Dr. (2009) Recovery and Growth (Recovering After Winter) Webinar. Brushy Mountain Bee Farm Website. Retrieved January 26, 2015 from <http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/Resources/Videos.asp>

Gebauer, Shane (2009) Made it Through Winter Webinar. Brushy Mountain Bee Farm Website. Retrieved January 26, 2015 from <http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/Resources/Videos.asp>

Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium. Apiary Location. MAAREC Website. Retrieved January 27, 2015 from <https://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/beginning-beekeeping-2/apiary-location/>.

Ohio State Beekeepers Association. PowerPoint Presentation Slide Set 6 Spring Management. Ohio State Beekeepers Association Website. Retrieved January 26, 2015 from <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/powerpoint-presentations/>.



Save the Honey Bee License Plate Available Soon

Beginning the second quarter of 2015 Ohioans can show their support for honeybees and beekeepers by ordering the new Save the Honey Bee License Plate.

In mid-December the bill creating the Ohio State Beekeepers Association license plate was signed into law. Special thanks goes to Mike Dovilla (Berea) and Dorothy Pelanda (Marysville), who sponsored the bill, OSBA Vice President Terry Lieberman-Smith, OSBA Director Alex Zomchek, and beekeeper Paul Lane who guided the project from its inception.

The license plate will bring more public awareness to the plight of the honey bee and raise additional funds (\$15 for each pair of plates issued) that OSBA will use to support education and beekeeping research.

More information about ordering the plates will be available on the [Ohio State Beekeepers Association](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org) website in the near future.



HiveTracks is a free computer application that can be accessed through any Internet Browser. It can be used from a laptop, iPad, smart phone, or desktop computer. HiveTracks offers an easy way to keep track of your hives and apiaries. The goal of the developers is to help beekeepers know their bees. With a HiveTracks account you can record apiary locations with the integrated Google map, add hives to each yard, build hives to look like the actual hives, record inspections, notes and observations, and keep track of queens. Beekeepers can also generate reports and view Google maps that show the range your bees will cover from their apiary. Recently the site was upgraded and offers much faster, more reliable service. Check it out at hivetracks.com

Chalkbrood



Chalkbrood is a fungal brood disease of honey bees. It can strike

at any time of the year but is more prevalent in the spring because Ohio's cool, damp weather provides the fungus with an ideal environment in which it can thrive.

Chalkbrood disease generally occurs more frequently and severely in colonies that are weakened or stressed by other conditions such as other diseases or pests, excessive hive moisture, cool, wet weather with poor foraging conditions and poor management. Smaller colonies with smaller numbers of nurse bees tend to struggle to keep the infected larvae cleaned out of the hive, spreading the disease more easily.



This disease is easily identified by the mummy like appearance of the larvae. Dead larvae are chalky

white and can be covered with fungus filaments making them appear cottony in its early stages. Occasionally the mummies have black or brown spots or have turned completely black. This discoloration is due to the presence of maturing fungal fruiting bodies.

The mummified larvae can be found on the bottom board, in the cells of the brood nest and at the hive entrance. A stronger hive can carry the mummies out and away from the hive. This greatly reduces the spread of infection within the hive.

Honey bees ingest the spores of the fungus with the larval food, making them most susceptible to chalkbrood when they are

three to four days old. The spores germinate in the gut of the larvae but growth is arrested until the larvae is sealed in its cell. Once the bee reaches this point in development, the mycelia break through the gut wall and overcome the larva within two to three days. It is this point that the larvae shows symptoms of the disease prompting nurse bees to put holes in the cell cap.

Chalkbrood does not have a registered control agent at this time. Stronger hives often have the ability to remove the mummies and regulate the temperature and moisture of the hive as the nectar flow increases. If the nectar flow is strong, a beekeeper can help the colony overcome chalkbrood by providing it with a frame or two of healthy brood from another hive. Weaker hives can be re-queened to offer more hygienic genetic stock. Beekeepers can avoid the spread of chalkbrood by destroying frames that have a large amount of infected brood and not using resources such as pollen or nectar stores from an infected hive in a chalkbrood-free hive.



Chalkbrood is a fungal brood disease that honey bees experience. The best protection a beekeeper can

offer is to practice good hive management to ensure strong colonies, use young queens of resistant genetic stock and cull old comb regularly to avoid harboring the spores of this disease.

Resources:
Ohio Dept of Agriculture. Chalkbrood Disease Fact Sheet. Retrieved January 27 from http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/apiary/Docs/Apiary_Docs_FactSheets.pdf

The Pennsylvania State University. (2011). *A Field Guide to Honey Bees and Their Maladies*. University Park, PA.

Scott-Dupree, C. (Editorial Chair). (2000). *Honey Bee Diseases & Pests*. Guelph, Ontario: Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists.

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Honey Roasted Peanuts

- 1/4 cup honey
 - 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
 - 1 pound shelled raw peanuts, skins optional
 - 1 to 2 tablespoons granulated raw sugar
- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Preheat oven to 350°.
 - In a medium saucepan, heat honey, butter, vanilla and 1 teaspoon salt over medium-low heat, until melted. Stirring frequently.
 - Add peanuts and stir to coat. Then pour them out into a single layer on the baking sheet.
 - Roast peanuts for 15 to 25 minutes, or until golden, stirring the nuts carefully a few times. Remove from oven, stir to break up clumps and let cool slightly.
 - Sprinkle with remaining salt and sugar and toss to coat.
 - Serve warm or cool completely and store in an airtight container.

This recipe was adapted from [Mother Earth Living](#).

2015 Officers

President	Bruce Deafenbaugh	330-457-0326
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Treasurer	Sandra Hays	330-921-5805
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	George Stacy (2016)	330-360-8717
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Special thanks to our generous suppliers who have provided us with catalogs, donations and door prizes. It means a lot to these folks to hear back from you, so be sure to mention our association when doing business with them:

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Article or recipe suggestions and submissions are accepted and appreciated. Please provide them by the second of each month.

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