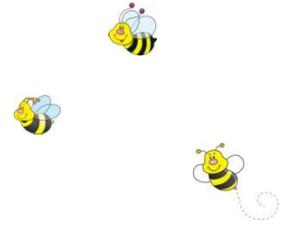


The Skep



President's Corner

Hello Beekeepers!

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you had a nice holiday season. The first meeting of the new year will be held on January 18 at the Experimental Farm in Canfield. We'll have a cover dish lunch at 1:00 and the business meeting will begin at 2:00.

Please be sure to check on your bees throughout the winter. Knocking on the side of the hive will cause a quiet buzz that lets you know the colony is alive. On sunnier afternoons you can put candy boards or dry sugar above the cluster to see the bees through. If you come across a dead hive, clean it out as soon as the weather allows so that you are ready for new bees in the spring.

Your dues for 2015 are due. If there are any changes in your address, email address, phone number or name, please make them at this time for our new membership roster. You can bring the form and payment to the meeting. Please make checks payable to the Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers' Association.

It looks like Columbiana County is in need of an Apiary Inspector. If you're interested contact Barb Bloetscher.

I look forward to seeing you on January 18th!

Bruce Deafenbaugh

*Happy New Year
Beekeepers!*

January Meeting Details

Sunday, January 18, 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.



The following article was shared by member Bill DeHoff. Thanks Bill!

Honey bee habitat: Ohio funding available in early 2015

By Kristy Foster Seachrist and originally printed in the [Farm and Dairy](#) on Friday, Nov. 14, 2014

SALEM, Ohio — Some Midwestern farmers can get a share of \$4 million from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to help improve the health of honey bees, however Ohio farmers will have to wait a little longer for funding.

No federal funding

Ohio landowners weren't included in the recently announced national pollinator program, however Ohio NRCS funds will be used to fund a similar effort.

The federal assistance announced in the Midwest will provide support to farmers to implement conservation practices that will provide food sources for honey bees. Practices might include inhibiting invasive species, and providing forage and habitat for honey bees and other pollinators with cover crops or pasture management.

Stay tuned

This year, several NRCS state offices, including California, Florida and Ohio, are setting aside additional funds for similar efforts.

There are no specifics available as to how much money will be made available in Ohio or how state officials plan to spend the money.

Chris Coulon, public affairs specialist for the Ohio office of the NRCS, does not expect to release any details about how much money or what it will be used for until January.

She said the program is expected to be similar to the program Ohio helped improve honey bee health last year and it is expected to be offered in more counties in 2015.

Coulon said although the program details aren't finalized yet in Ohio, farmers can get ready. She urges farmers to go to their local NRCS office and start the application process for Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP, funding, especially if they are using cover crops.

It's also a good idea for producers who aren't part of the Farm Service Agency database to start the process. Coulon said there is an application process and if landowners wait until the last minute to begin, they might not get it finished in time to be considered for the funding.

Ranking and selection won't happen until the money becomes available after December.

Ohio honeybee growers

Coulon said the Ohio NRCS will work with the Ohio State Beekeepers Association to get the word out about application dates.

She said last year's program attracted non-traditional consumers to the NRCS and she anticipates the USDA agency to be working with them again in the future.

Vital to production

An estimated \$15 billion worth of crops is pollinated by honey bees, including more than 130 fruits and vegetables.

From June to September, the Midwest is home to more than 65 percent of the commercially managed honey bees in the country. It's also a critical time when bees require abundant and diverse forage to build up hive strength for the winter.

Five-state focus

USDA's NRCS is focusing the effort on five Midwestern states: Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. This round renews and expands a \$3 million pilot investment that was announced earlier this year and continues to have high levels of interest. Applications for the national program in those states are due Nov. 21.

Ohio State Apiarist Becomes a Full Time Position



After spending several years of sharing her time between Ohio State University and the Ohio Department of

Agriculture, State Apiarist Barbara Bloetscher's position with ODA is full time again.

One of Barbara's duties as head of the Apiary Program is to coordinate the state and county inspection services and ensure a healthy beekeeping industry.

Conducting honey bee research throughout the state also demonstrates Barb's dedication to the well-being of beekeeping in Ohio.

Another of her many duties is to act as an ambassador for honey bees and beekeepers. Barb answers questions and educates homeowners, school-classes, and community groups across the state.

Barb is an active member of the [Ohio State Beekeepers Association](#). She can generally be found at the state conferences and meetings where many of us have had the pleasure of attending one of her classes.

Congratulations Barbara! Honey bees and Beekeepers across Ohio will benefit from the ODA's decision to make the State Apiarist position full time.

Apiary Registration

According to the [Ohio Department of Agriculture](#), 4,435 beekeepers registered in accordance with Ohio Revised Code section 909.02 in 2014. This represents 6,028 apiaries, and approximately 39,055 colonies. The 55 county apiary inspectors inspected a total of 17,333 colonies in 4,049 apiaries. The table below describes their findings.

Number of Colonies with	
American Foulbrood	39
European Foulbrood	12
Chalkbrood	44
Nosema Symptoms	202
Varroa Mites	5,416
Small Hive Beetle	1,412

Registration costs \$5 per apiary location and must be completed by June 1 each year. You can find the [Registration Form](#) and [No Consent Form](#) at the following links.

[Application for Apiary Registration](#)

[No Consent Form](#)

Winter & Spring Beekeeping Events

The winter and early spring seasons bring a opportunity for beekeepers to get together to discuss bees and learn the latest trends and techniques. If you haven't had the chance to attend one of these main events, I encourage you do to so. There is always so much to see, do and learn at the expos and seminars! The best part is spending the day with fellow beekeepers.

14th Annual Honeybee EXPO



The Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers' Association will sponsor their 2015 Honeybee EXPO at the

West Virginia University at Parkersburg on January 31. Registration is \$20 for adults if paid before January 13 or \$25 at the door. Children under 12 years of age are \$8. This year the EXPO offers several workshops to choose from. For additional information including the schedule of classes, registration information and directions, please visit the event's webpage at the following link.

[Honeybee EXPO](#)

What do honey bees do in the winter?

They snuggle with their honey.

Western Pennsylvania Beekeeping Seminar



This two day seminar will be held on February 13 & 14, 2015 at the Four Points by Sheraton North, Mars, Pa. Registration opens at the beginning of January and is \$50. For an additional \$25 fee, a special Beginning Beekeeping workshop will be offered all day on Saturday as a separate track of the seminar. The main speakers include Jerry Hayes and Dr. Diana Sammataro. There will be many major beekeeping suppliers on-hand in the Vendor Area also. Please call 724-774-3003 or watch for additional information at the following link:

[PSBA Events](#)

37th Annual Spring Beekeepers Workshop

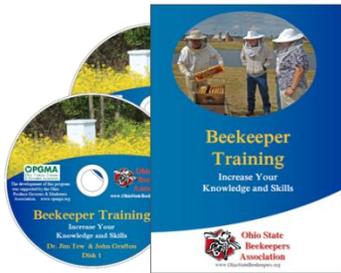
Mark your calendars for Tri-County Beekeepers' Association's Spring Workshop on March 6-7, 2015 at the Fisher/Shisler Center in Wooster, Ohio. This year's theme is *Beekeeping: Adventure, Hobby or Career*. Registration will open on January 5 and close on February 13 according to their website. Adult registration is \$40 for adults and \$5 for children under 18. Kid's Session will be offered for an additional \$10 that will provide bee activities for youth 6-12 years of age. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Larry Connor.

continued on page 5

For more information about the classes, directions, registration and Honey Recipe Contest please visit the following link.

[2015 Spring Workshop Registration](#)

Winter Beekeeping Activities



If you are looking for an enjoyable beekeeping activity for

the winter evenings, please take a look at the Ohio State Beekeepers Association's website for [A Web-Based Introductory Beekeeping Training Program](#). This **free** online program is sponsored by Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association and O.S.B.A. The program includes 34 video segments, three Power Point productions and an online text book by Dr. James E. Tew. O.S.B.A. has made the 34 video clips available on a 2 DVD set entitled *Beekeeper Training* for \$24.95. [Order here](#) or send a check and your shipping address to Tim Arheit – OSBA, 330 Sunderland Rd S, Delphos OH 45833. Checks should be made out to the Ohio State Beekeepers Association.

Looking Ahead- Late Winter Feeding



It may seem crazy to be talking about late winter feeding when most beekeepers are concerned

about getting their bees through the next two months, but now is the time to be reading and making decisions about preparing your bees for the spring nectar flow. The general idea is to build your colonies up before the early flow rather than with the flow. Dry Pollen Substitute provides the much needed protein source for brood rearing and an opportunity to forage since there aren't any flowers providing pollen naturally yet. The best time to start feeding with pollen patties or dry pollen substitute is early March, depending of course on the weather. The following recipe is from [Honey Bee Suite](#) and can be placed in a bird feeder or bucket near the apiary.

Dry Pollen Substitute

- 3 parts soy flour
- 1 part brewer's yeast
- 1 part dry milk
- 1 teaspoon vitamin C (for every 6 cups of mixture)

Thoroughly combine ingredients and store in an airtight container when not in use.



Honey Caramel Pecan Bars

For crust:

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 6 tablespoons butter (softened)

For Filling:

- 3 1/2 cups coarsely chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2/3 cup butter
- 3 tablespoons whipping cream
- Preheat oven to 350°F. Line bottom and sides of a 9x13 inch pan with heavy duty aluminum foil and lightly grease foil.
- On a shallow pan bake pecans in a single layer for 8 to 10 minutes until lightly toasted and fragrant, stirring halfway through the baking time.
- Meanwhile, stir together the flour and brown sugar for the crust and cut in the 6 tablespoons of butter. Pat this mixture into the 9x13 pan covering the bottoms and slightly up the sides of the pan.
- Bake the crust for 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool completely.
- Bring the brown sugar, honey, butter and whipping cream to boil in a 3 quart sauce pan over medium heat. Stir in toasted pecans and spoon the hot filling over the crust.
- Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes until golden and bubbly. Cool completely on a wire rack. Using the foil, lift bars from pan and cut into squares. Store in a sealed container.

2015 Officers

President	Bruce Deafenbaugh	330-457-0326
V.President	Chuck Hatch	330-807-0848
Secretary	Heidi Schmidbauer	330-386-7763
Treasurer	Sandra Hays	330-921-5805
Board:	Don Hays (2015)	330-921-1012
	George Stacy (2016)	330-360-8717
	Joe Schmidbauer (2017)	330-386-7763

Special thanks to our generous suppliers who have provided us with catalogs 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.

Heidi Schmidbauer
870 Center Road
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920
(330)386-7763
jhs494@comcast.net