



# The Skep



## The Beekeepers' To-Do List for July

The weather is beautiful and the bees are busy. This is a great time of the year! So what should a beekeeper be doing in July?

1. Continue to provide a water source for your bees.
2. Monitor Varroa Mites using a sticky board or one of the jar sampling methods.

Spring/Summer (April to Mid-June)	
Sticky Boards	Over 5 mites
Brood Sample	Over 5% infestation
Sugar Roll	2-3 mites per sample
Exceeding threshold means addition control (non-chemical IPM treatment) is needed.	
Pre-Fall (mid August)	
Sticky Boards	Over 50 mites
Brood Sample	Over 5-10% infestation
Sugar Roll	Over 10 mites per sample
Exceeding threshold means addition control (chemical treatment) is needed.	

Bloetscher, Barbara. (September 2014) *Preparing Apiaries for Winter Survival*. Ohio State University Website. Retrieved on June 21, 2016 from <http://u.osu.edu/beelab/files/2014/09/Preparing-Apiary-for-Winter-survival-10g8e6o.pdf>

3. Extract some spring honey if you have capped frames that are ready to pull from the hive.
4. Start thinking about your fair entries. There is more information in this edition of the newsletter about the honey show.
5. Learn! Any time is a great time to continue learning about beekeeping and creating hive products. The association has a large amount of books available in the library and there are lots more resources online. Ask your fellow beekeeper friends a question. We all love to talk about bees and would be happy to help.

### 2016 Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations

July 17	Bruce & Michele Zimmer
August 21	Don Kovach's Parents' Home
September 18	Shelly & Christian Cirino
October 16	A La Cart Catering

Please bring your own plates, cups and silverware for the potluck lunch and folding lawn chairs.

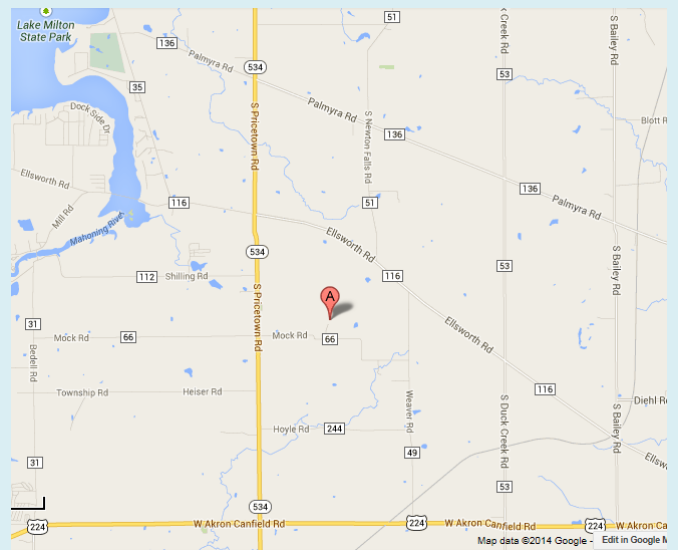
## July Meeting Details

Sunday, July 17  
 Potluck Lunch 1:00 p.m.  
 Meeting 2:00 p.m.  
 Bruce & Michel Zimmer's Home  
 15090 Mock Rd.  
 Berlin Center, Oh 44401

From I 76 or Mahoning Avenue, turn South on to SR 534. Proceed 3 1/2 miles to Mock Road. Turn left (East) and proceed 1/2 mile passing through an "S" bend and turning left at the second drive.

From US 224, turn North on SR 534 and proceed 1 1/2 miles to Mock Road. Turn right (East) and proceed 1/2 mile passing through an "S" bend and turning left at the second drive.

\*Directions courtesy of [www.carefreekennels.com](http://www.carefreekennels.com) Thank you Bruce!



## Association T-Shirt Orders



This year's shirts are true red with the emblem on the back. If you are interested in ordering shirts please see Andrea Deafenbaugh at an association meeting or call her at (330) 457-0326 . ***The deadline for orders and payment is Sunday, July 17.***

Prices are as follows:

<b>Polo Shirts</b> (up to XL)	\$10.75
Polo Shirts (XXL)	\$11.75
Polo Shirts (3XL)	\$12.75
Polo Shirts (4XL)	\$14.75
<b>T-Shirts</b> (up to XL)	\$7.25
Each additional X in size adds an additional \$1.	
Embroidered name and skep on front of either style of shirt	Additional \$4

Embroidered Caps will be available for \$10 each.

***Thank you Andrea!***

## CMCBA Library News

At our last Association meeting Grimilda Ocasio gave everyone a copy of the library inventory. Please contact her to check out a book or other resource. Now is a great time for reading about beekeeping and making various products from the hive!

grimildaocasio@gmail.com  
330-536-8714

***Thank you Grimilda!***

## June Meeting Recap

Our June meeting was held at Chuck and Kathryn Hatch's home. Thankfully the weather was considerably warmer than it had been in May!

Following a brief business meeting we talked a little bit about the fair. Andrea & Bruce Deafenbaugh, Don Kovach, George Stacy and other experienced members chimed in about fair entries, working at the fair, helping fairgoers learn about bees and assuring new members that it is a fun, worthwhile experience. As Andrea promised at the meeting we have the premium page for the Honey and Beeswax entries in this edition as well as some additional fun beekeeping facts to help you through your shift.

After our discussion Bob Chmelik spoke about the various swarm calls that he received this spring. As of Sunday Bob has gotten 110 swarm calls this year. He and George talked a bit about each of the retrievals and about calling other members to gather the swarms they were unavailable to get. Bob shared some swarm photos and directed all of us to his Facebook page where his grandson keeps up to date pictures and information about Bob's retrievals. Thank you to all of you for taking part in making this month's meeting productive and especially to the Hatch family for welcoming us to your home!



[Google Drive](#) is quickly becoming an important beekeeping tool in our house. The more we learned about the apps, the more we saw the organizational possibilities for beekeeping. Currently we keep the Association Roster, Mentor and Swarm lists as Google Sheets (think Excel spreadsheet). Google Docs (think Word or Works) is a great place to keep hive notes while slideshow presentations can be uploaded as Slides (similar to Power Point). Our Google files are accessible on any device as long as we have internet connection and our passwords. The best part is that the files can all be shared with other Google Drive accounts. This gives us the ability to add notes or change information right in the bee yard and the updated data is available instantly for all three of us. There are so many tutorials to help you online. I'd encourage you to give it a try!

### Bee-worthy Blooms

*A sampling of July blooming trees and plants that honey bees use as nectar (N) and/or pollen (P) sources.*

Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*): N & P  
Flowers are white or purple.



Bee-Bee Tree (*Evodia daniellii*):  
N & P A major source of both pollen and nectar. Pollen pellets are yellow.



Milkweed, Butterfly & Common (*Asclepias spp.*): N  
Flowers are orange-red and purple respectively.



Sweet Corn (*Zea mays*): P  
Plants are wind pollinated but bees gather pollen.

#### Resources:

Lindtner, Peter. (2014). *Garden Plants for Honey Bees*. Kalamazoo, MI: [Wicwas Press](#).

Tew, James E. *Some Ohio Nectar and Pollen Producing Plants*, Fact Sheet HYG-2168-98. Wooster, OH: Ohio State University Extension.

### Powdered Sugar Roll to Detect Varroa Mites

#### Supplies:

Wide Mouth Canning Jar with two piece lid  
#8 Hardware Cloth Circle  
Powdered Sugar  
White Container to shake the mites into

1. Gather all materials. Cut the hardware cloth into a circle that will fit in the canning jar ring so it replaces the inside cover. Mark your jar to show 1/4 cup. This is the approximate amount for 200 bees.
2. Carefully scoop 200-300 bees into the jar from the frames. Quickly put the screen lid on the jar and firmly tap the bottom to knock the bees down so you can measure the amount. Once there is enough bees move to step three.
3. Put about 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar into the jar. Roll the bees until they are well coated. Let the jar sit in the shade for 1 to 2 minutes.
4. Turn the jar of bees over and shake the powdered sugar and mites through the screen and into the white container. Continue to shake for at least one minute.
5. Count the number of mites in the powdered sugar. Adding a small amount of water will dissolve the sugar so the mites are easy to see.
6. Return the sugar covered bees to the hive. They will clean up and return to their tasks. Use the chart in the Beekeeper's To-Do List article to determine further action.

#### Resources:

Rudloff, Gordon (copyright 2014). [Sugar Roll to Detect Varroa Fact Sheet. Ohio State Beekeepers Association Website](#). Retrieved July 6, 2014 from <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/ohio-fact-sheets/sugar-roll-to-detect-varroa/>.

Reuter, Gary S and Spivak, Marla. Powder Sugar Roll For Varroa Mites on Honey Bees. [University of Minnesota Bee Lab Website](#). Retrieved July 6, 2014 from [http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/disorders/documents/VarroaMites\\_155.pdf](http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/disorders/documents/VarroaMites_155.pdf).

## Swarm Call Etiquette

There have been a large number of swarms this year and the increase in calls has most beekeepers running in a million different directions (well ok maybe not a million but it can feel like it at times). Additionally often a person calling a beekeeper about a swarm is somewhat anxious about the situation. Using the following questions as a guide, gathering information from the callers ahead of time can help you prepare to get the swarm or pass the information to a fellow beekeeper. Either way, when we are more prepared as we work with non-beekeepers we can reduce their anxiety and leave them feeling better about doing a great thing by saving the honey bees.

### Questions to ask when you get a call requesting that you come to get a swarm

1. Have you called anyone else?
2. Have you sprayed them?
3. How big is it? The size of a baseball, football or basketball?
4. How high is it? Is a ladder required? Be prepared for it to be higher than the caller predicts.
5. Is it in a high traffic area?
6. Is it on your property? Is there anything else I should know about (like electric fences or pets)?
7. What is your contact information?

In the event that you are sending a call to a fellow beekeeper it is quite helpful to share this information with them right away. It alleviates additional calls and helps them get to the swarm more quickly. The goal is to gather the bees and leave the non-beekeeper with a positive experience and maybe a little bit more knowledge about honey bees.



## What's All The Buzz About The Canfield Fair?

One of the goals of our Association is to educate the public about the important role honey bees play as pollinators and demonstrate the value to our ecology and economy. The Canfield Fair booth offers us the opportunity to reach a large number of people of varying backgrounds and age groups. Everyone loves to come in and see the observation hive! Looking for the queen is a tradition for many families and it is important to them that we offer guidance and answer their questions honestly. The Honey and Beeswax Display is also an integral part of our success as educators also. It is a striking visual demonstration of the many products that can be made from the cooperative work of honey bees and their keepers. The back lit honey, frames, candles and other items catch people's attention from across the barn. This is especially true when our shelves are full and the ribbons are in place. Once at the table people eagerly ask lots of questions such as how wax is made, why the honey is a variety of colors and how it got into the frames. Ultimately we, the members, are the key to our success. While we are at the booth we are representing the beekeeping community and should conduct ourselves in a polite, pleasant manner. Answering questions as honestly as possible (even if the means admitting that you don't know an answer) is important. At the meeting we saw the looks on your faces and to help ease some of your nervousness here is a fair cheat sheet. I hope it helps you feel more comfortable. Feel free to print it and bring it with you!



### Answers to Commonly Asked Questions at the Fair

- ✓ The observation hive is changed at least once during the duration of the fair for the bee's wellbeing. The queens may be marked with different colors.
- ✓ There is generally only one queen per hive. She lays about 2,000 eggs a day.
- ✓ The average summer hive contains 60,000 to 80,000 honey bees while a winter hive contains 20,000 to 30,000 honey bees.
- ✓ The average lifespan of a worker bee in the summer is 40 days. In the winter a worker bee lives much longer often for 4 to 6 months because they have considerably more vitellogenin.
- ✓ There are three castes, or types, of honey bees: drones (male bees), workers (female bees) and queens. Only the queen has the ability to lay fertilized eggs.
- ✓ On average a queen bee emerges 16 days after the egg was laid, a worker bee emerges 20 days after the egg was laid and a drone emerges 24 days after the egg was laid.
- ✓ Worker bee jobs depend on the age of the bee. Her first 21 days are spent as a house bee in the hive. After 22 days she flies out to begin her foraging career.
- ✓ 8 to 10 pounds of honey are consumed to produce one pound of wax.
- ✓ Beeswax melts at 149°F.



## Honey Strawberry Lemonade Popsicles

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups - fresh strawberries, washed and stemmed, 1/2 cup reserved and diced
- 1/2 cup - fresh or prepared lemon juice
- 1/2 cup - honey
- 1 cup - water

### Directions:

Place all ingredients except the 1/2 cup diced strawberries in a blender and mix on high until the strawberries are completely incorporated, about 1 minute.

Divide the diced strawberries between the popsicle molds and carefully pour the strawberry lemonade mixture to the top of each mold.

Insert the popsicle sticks in each mold and freeze until the popsicles are completely frozen.

**Tip:** Run warm water over the molds for just a moment for easy popsicle removal.

Recipe & Photo from [The National Honey Board](http://www.thenationalhoneyboard.com)

### 2016 Officers

President	Bruce Zimmer	330-547-2273
V.President	Tom Pittman	330-503-3131
Secretary	Heidi Schmidbauer	330-386-7763
Treasurer	Sandra Hays	330-921-5805
Board:	George Stacy (2016)	330-360-8717
	Joe Schmidbauer (2017)	330-386-7763
	Chuck Hatch (2018)	330-807-0848

*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:*

### 2016 Supporters

A.I. Root- Bee Culture	Heartwood Lumber
Applewood Seed Company	Honey Bee Ware
Betterbee	Kelley Beekeeping
Bee Smart Designs	Mann Lake
Beeline Apiaries	Olivarez Honey Bees
Blue Sky Bee Supply	Pigeon Mountain Trading
Brushy Mountain	Queen Right Colonies
Buckeye Queen Producers	Rossman Apiaries
Dadant - American Bee Journal	Valley Bee Supply
Draper's Super Bee Apiaries	Western Bee Supplies
Ernst Seeds	

Click on the company name to visit their web site.



Check out our website for additional resources and information.



[www.columbianamahoningbeekeepers.org](http://www.columbianamahoningbeekeepers.org)

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

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