

# The Skep

## Editor Needed For 2017

During the past couple of years *The Skep* and the information contained within have been a constant topic of conversation in our home. We have enjoyed researching and discussing the newest trends, topics and methods of modern beekeeping. We have tried so many different honey recipes, many of which never made it to the newsletter because they just weren't that good. The three of us have learned so much and hope that you have learned something also but it is time for someone else to take over.

The October 2016 edition of *The Skep* will be my last as editor. I hope that one of you will be willing to take on this project to help keep

the communication open among members to share information and resources. If you are willing to be the new editor please let a Board Member know so they can make arrangements for the start of next year. Thank you to all of you that have taken the time to read *The Skep*, as well as offer pictures, articles, topics and poetry!

Heidi Schmidbauer

### 2016 Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations

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.

### August Meeting Details

Sunday, August 21  
Potluck Lunch 1:00 p.m.  
Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Don Kovach's Parents' Home  
The Honey House  
322 South Turner Rd.  
Youngstown, Oh 44515

From Rt 11 North take the Mahoning Ave Exit 39 toward Austintown. Turn left onto Mahoning Ave for 2.1 miles. Turn left onto South Turner Rd for .2 miles. The driveway is on the right.

From Rt 11 South take the Mahoning Ave Exit 39 toward Austintown. Turn right onto Mahoning Ave for 2 miles. Turn left onto South Turner Rd for .2 miles. The driveway is on the right.



## CMCBA Library

Please contact Grimilda Ocasio to check out a book or other resource from the Association Library. 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!***

## Bee-worthy Blooms

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



Borage (*Borago officinalis*): N & P Blooms the whole summer. Pollen pellets are yellow-green to grey.



Japanese Pagoda Tree (*Sophora japonica*) N & P  
A major source of both pollen and nectar. Pollen pellets are creamy white.



Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*): N & P Pollen pellets are bright yellow.

Coneflower (*Rudbeckia*): P  
Pollen pellets are orange.

### 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.

## July Meeting Recap

Our July meeting was held at Michele and Bruce Zimmer's home. Thankfully they have a barn so we could all sit in the shade!

During the business meeting it was brought to my attention that not everyone is getting their copy of *The Skep*. If you have had someone complain to you that they didn't get it please ask them to let me know! I can't fix something that I don't know is broken. Thank you!

Following a short business meeting we talked more about the fair. George Stacy filled everyone in on how to sign up to work in the booth and what to expect. He shared that when you work one shift at the fair you can pay half price for your dinner at the banquet. There are still several time slots available throughout the week so George will have the sign-up sheet at the August meeting. If you aren't able to make it to the August meeting but still want to sign up to work please call George at (330)360-8717. He will be more than happy to help.

At the August 21 meeting we will be counting candy and labeling honey. The new t-shirts, hats and polos will be available for pick-up as well.

The following Sunday, August 28, we will meet at 1:00 in the Hay and Grain Building to set up the booth. Bring your cleaning supplies please.

Thank you Bruce and Michele for allowing us to meet at your home!

## Association Elections

At our meeting Bruce asked for volunteers for the 2016 Nominations Committee. Grimilda Ocasio volunteered. If you would like to join her on the committee please let Bruce Zimmer know.

This year we must vote to fill the offices of the Treasurer, Secretary and one Board Member but the President and Vice-President positions are also available for nominations.

To learn more about the responsibilities and duties of these positions please refer to the [Constitution & Bylaws of the Association](#). If you would like to run for one of these positions or would like to nominate another member please contact Grimilda at [grimildaocasio@gmail.com](mailto:grimildaocasio@gmail.com) or 330-536-8714.

## OSBA Fall Conference

The OSBA Fall Conference will be held on November 5 in Plain City, Ohio. This year's speakers include Dr. Jamie Ellis, Stephen Repasky, Alex Zomcheck, Christie Welch and others. Registration will open on September 1. Additional information will follow as it becomes available.



## Ways to Use Beeswax

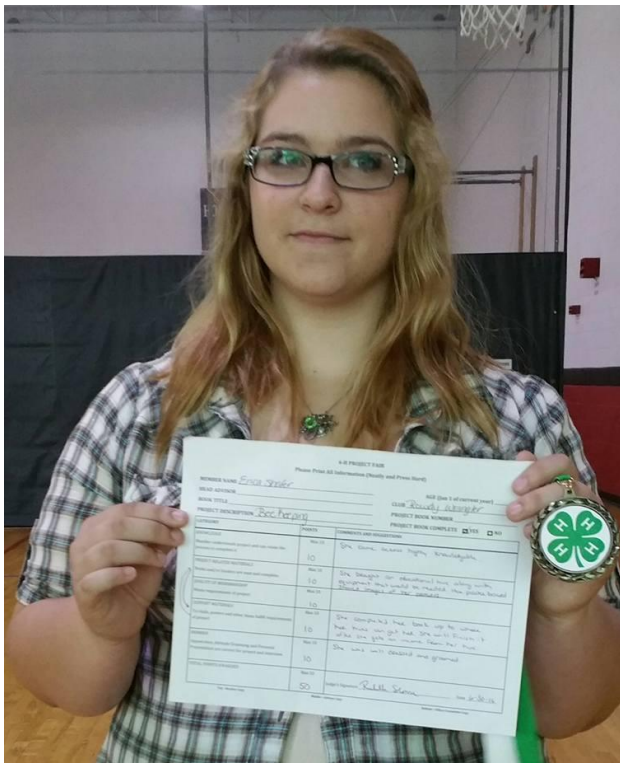
A honey bee is most efficient at wax production during the tenth to 16th days of her life. During this period of time she will secrete wax scales on her abdomen that will be used to build comb and cap honey. Removing honey cappings is a necessary step of harvesting honey and leaves the beekeeper with a second hive product to share. The following list provides you with some ideas of what beeswax is used for. I started with a few obvious uses.

1. Candles- This is the obvious first item. Beeswax candles burn clean and smell great.
2. Crayons- A quick Google search will lead you to a variety of directions to make your own crayons.
3. Soap, Lip Balm, Lotion Bars and Solid Perfume- There are so many recipes available or make up your own.
4. Wood Butter- Keep your wooden spoons and cutting boards in good shape. Melt 1 oz. beeswax with 4 oz. mineral oil. Let cool completely and use a cloth to rub a small amount into the wood item.
5. [Grafting Wax](#)- Gardeners have been using beeswax for hundreds of years. Follow the link for a formula to try.
6. Wax Thread- Waxing thread will keep it from getting tangled and make it easier to thread through a needle.
7. Prevent Rust- Just rub it on tools and cast iron items.
8. Furniture Polish- Melt 1 TBSP of beeswax with 3 TBSP of coconut oil, let cool and apply with a clean cloth. Buff with a soft clean cloth.

## Erica Shafer Will Compete at the Ohio State Fair

Earlier in July Erica Shafer presented her Honey Bee project for Columbiana County 4-H. After being chosen as the Columbiana County winner for the Beekeeping category Erica has earned a spot to compete against other county winners at the [Ohio State Fair](#). The competition will take place in Columbus on August 6. At the state level she will be judged in the following manner: 30% Knowledge (including basic concepts learned), 20% Communication (presentation of the project), 20% Project Book, 20% Project Display and 10% Leadership /Citizenship.

Erica is one of five students in the state to receive the [O.S.B.A.](#) 4-H Partnership Scholarship. She was provided enough equipment for two hives, beekeeping necessities and a one year free membership to O.S.B.A. Bruce Deafenbaugh is Erica's mentor. Jennifer, Erica's mom, tells me that Bruce has been a wonderful mentor! Good Luck Erica! We can't wait to hear about your experience. And thank you Bruce for taking Erica under your wing and helping her through the beginning beekeeping process.



## August in the Apiary

August is an important month on a beekeeper's calendar. Many newer beekeepers are surprised to learn that what you do in August will strongly influence how well your bees fare through the winter and how well they will do next year. Here are a few things that need done in August to improve the chance of success next season.

- 1. Harvest Summer Honey.** In early August the summer honey should be harvested. If you have a strong golden rod flow in your area the supers can be placed back on the hives.
- 2. Monitor for Mites.** Varroa mite populations exceed honey bee populations during the fall if the beekeeper isn't virulent. Monitor and take the appropriate action to reduce mite loads early in the fall.
- 3. Consider Re-Queening.** A new queen means stronger pheromones to curtail swarming and much more efficient egg laying in the spring when bees need a population build-up ahead of the nectar flow.
- 4. Combine Hives When Needed.** Remove the queen from weak hives and combine them with stronger ones. Weak colonies have a slim chance of making it through winter and poorly performing queens in the fall are poorly performing queens in the spring even if they do survive the winter. Take your colony losses in the fall and increase the resources and number of bees in the stronger hive.
- 5. Monitor Robbing.** Be careful having hives open for extended periods of time during these weeks. This tends to encourage robbing behavior. Watch the activity at the entrance. Frequently weaker colonies will be robbed by stronger colonies when the nectar flow slows down or stops.
- 6. Feed if Necessary.** Check and make sure your bees have ample food stores. If they don't have frames of honey and pollen be sure to provide both forms of nourishment. If you are feeding, the supers should be removed.

Being a vigilant and active beekeeper in August can help increase the chance of a successful season next year. Next season begins now.

Resources:

Northern Neck Beekeepers. Beekeeper's Calendar. Northern neck Beekeepers Website. Retrieved on July 26, 2016 from <http://www.nbbeekers.com/index.php/educationinformation/53-beekeepers-calendar>

Pickens County Beekeepers. (2014) Beekeeper's Calendar. South Carolina Beekeepers Association Website. Retrieved on July 26, 2016 from <http://www.scstatebeekeepers.wildapricot.org/BeekeepersCalendar>



## Honey Kiwi Raspberry Fruit Dip

### Ingredients:

- 1 - ripe kiwi, peeled and diced
- 1/2 cup - unsweetened frozen raspberries
- 1/2 cup - pure honey
- 8 oz. - low-fat vanilla yogurt
- Fresh fruit, for dipping

### Directions:

In the bowl of a food processor, combine kiwi, raspberries and honey; puree.

Stir in yogurt and chill.

Serve with sliced fresh fruit (strawberries, pineapple, watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew melon, grapes, bananas, etc.)

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
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Betterbee	Kelley Beekeeping
Bee Smart Designs	Mann Lake
Beeline Apiaries	Olivarez Honey Bees
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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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