

The S^kep

Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers Association

Volume 6 Issue 7

July 2014

President's Corner

Hello Beekeepers!

Now that swarming season is winding down we are all able to get back to the business at hand, summer maintenance and fair preparations.

Scott Svab, the Columbiana County Apiary Inspector, told us about some IPM (Integrated Pest Management) methods for controlling Varroa mites. Mite counts will be the highest in July. Some people take the honey supers off and treat with chemicals and others re-queen to pause the brood cycle. Requeening creates a short period of time that there is no capped brood in the hive, leaving the mites without a place to live, eat and lay eggs.

When extracting honey be sure to save your best frame for the fair and keep some liquid honey to enter. The association has cherry frame cases and jars for your entries. You can use your cappings to make

wax products to show also! The Columbiana County Fair will be held July 28 to August 3. It is only open to Columbiana County residents and you must have a pre-registration. The Canfield Fair is held August 27-Labor Day. Entries will be accepted on Tuesday, August 26 and there are no pre-entries.

I made 146 12 ounce containers of creamed honey for the fair before the newsletter went out. I used the recipe from the Parkersburg, West Virginia meeting.

All t-shirt orders must be turned in and paid for by the July meeting. The order will be placed the next day so that we can have the shirts in time for the Canfield Fair. To place your order contact Sandra and Don Hays. For more t-shirt details see page three.

Our next meeting will be at Bruce and Michele Zimmer's home in Berlin Center. I hope to see you there!*

Bruce Deafenbaugh

July Meeting Details

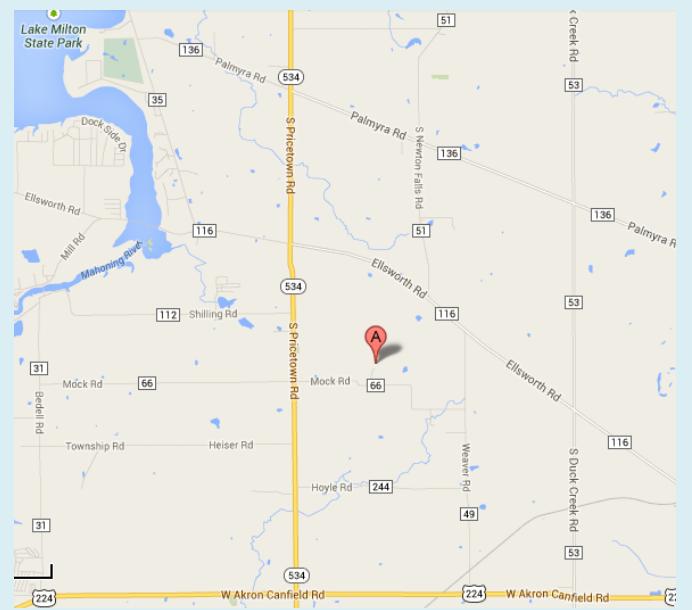
Sunday, July 20
Potluck Lunch 1:00 p.m.
Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Bruce 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 Thank you Bruce!



Providing Water for Honey Bees

Because gathering water is essential to honey bee survival, providing your honey bees with a water source is a integral part of being a beekeeper. Bees need water to cool their hive and to thin honey when feeding brood.

During the summer months as the temperature rises and we experience a dearth, or lack of nectar flow, this need increases. A strong hive can use over a quart of water a day during this period. According to the Ohio State Beekeepers Association's [Best Management Practices for Maintaining Honey Bee Colonies in Ohio](#) a beekeeper should maintain a water source within 50 feet of the hives or less than one-half the distance to the nearest unnatural water source in urban and suburban apiaries. In addition it is important for rural apiaries to have a source of water as well. According to [Honey Bee Suite](#) honey bees will gather droplets of water produced by the guttation process of nearby plants. These droplets can contain poisons from the pesticides used to treat the seeds of those plants prior to planting. Ensuring a reliable source of water will make it less likely that the bees will need to gather these droplets and carry the poisons back to the hive.

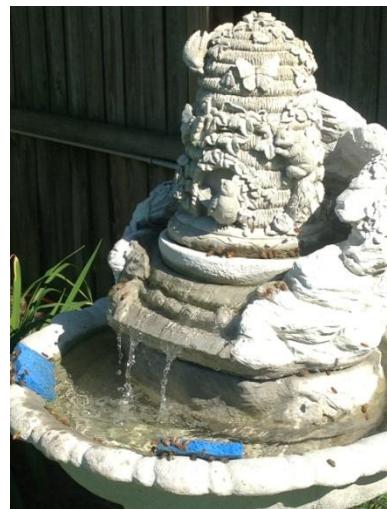
There are several options for providing water to your honey bees. Each method is unique in the amount of time and money required to set up and maintain the water source. In all cases the beekeeper has a great opportunity to watch the bees take up water and carry it back to the hives.



A rather easy method of providing water to an apiary is using a poultry drinker with a length of rope coiled in the reservoir. The drinker is easy to keep clean and filled

and the rope provides footing so the bees are less likely to drown as they gather water. Poultry drinkers can be placed on a stump or hanging in a tree near the hives.

Another easy but more time consuming method is placing a bird bath near the apiary. Within the bird bath several stones should be piled to provide footing for the bees. As the water level drops the bees will walk in among the rocks to get to the water. This method requires the beekeeper to be vigilant about the amount of water. During hot, dry weather the bird bath should be filled daily.



A decorative fountain is a fun way to provide water in the backyard.

Fountains can be found in several shapes and sizes. If a beekeeper chooses this method, he/she needs to use stones or

floating objects to provide the honey bees with a place to safely gather the water. A sponge tucked along the edge also gives the bees an easy access spot.

Creating a honey bee water garden is another method of providing water. There are a variety of containers and pond building methods available to suit any beekeeper's expectations for cost and maintenance. Using plants that provide the bees with a good foothold is the key to a successful honey bee water garden of any size or shape. Floating plants such as Salvinia and Azolla work well as floating platforms for honey bees. Salvinia even has little loop like hairs on the leaves that provide the bees with a non-slip surface.

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The leaves of water lilies, aquatic forget-me-nots and water hyacinths also are favored by honey bees to use as water gathering locations.



To quickly attract the honey bees

to any new water source a couple of drops of Lemongrass essential oil can be added to the sponge, stone or rope. This tip is especially helpful when trying to draw the bees away from another body of water.

Regardless of the number of honey bee colonies and the setting of the apiaries, a beekeeper is responsible to ensure that their honey bees have an ample supply of clean water. It is imperative to the success of the hive and prevents the bees from foraging for water in less desirable locations such as a neighbor's swimming pool or the droplets of water from treated plants in agricultural settings. *

References

Rusty. (May 2, 2010) Water droplets sometimes carry insecticides. Honey Bee Suite Website. Retrieved June 20, 2014, from <http://www.honeybeesuite.com/water-droplets-may-sometimes-carry-insecticides/>

Glenn, Tom & Suki. Creating a Honeybee Water Garden. Glenn Apiaries Website. Retrieved June 20, 2014, from <http://www.glenncanary.com/beepond.html>

Ohio State Beekeepers Association. (Revised February 5, 2013). Best Management Practices for Maintaining Honey Bee Colonies in Ohio. Ohio State Beekeepers Association Website. Retrieved June 20, 2014 from <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/OSBA-Best-Management-Practices.pdf>

T-Shirt Order Reminder

This year's shirts are orange with black emblems as voted on at the May association meeting. If you are interested in ordering shirts please see Sandy Hays or call her at (330) 921-5805 . The deadline for orders and payment is Sunday, July 20. Prices are as follows:

Polo Shirts (up to XL)	\$9.75
T-Shirt (up to XL)	\$7.25
Each additional X in size adds an additional \$1.	
Embroidered name and skep on front of polo	Additional \$5

Bee-worthy Blooms

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



Alsike Clover: N & P



Butterfly Bush: N



Butterfly Weed: N

Basswood Tree: N & P

Catalpa Tree: N & P

Borage: N & P

Lavender: N

Mints: N

Milkweed N & P

Pumpkin N & P

Sumac N & P

White Dutch Clover N & P

Kathleen M. Prough. *Gardening for Honey Bees*. Indiana DNR, Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology Apiary News & Information Website. Retrieved June 29, 2014 from http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/files/ep-Gardening_for_Honey_Bees.pdf

Tew, James E. *Some Ohio Nectar and Pollen Producing Plants*, Fact Sheet. The Ohio State University Ohioline FactSheets. Retrieved June 29, 2014 from <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2168.html>

Welcoming Scott Svab

Scott Svab joined us for our June meeting. This is his second year as apiary inspector for Columbiana County. According to [Ohio Department of Agriculture](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/apiary/Docs/APIARY_Docs_InspectionSummary.pdf) Website 110 colonies were inspected in the county last year while 72 colonies were inspected in Mahoning County.



As Scott pointed out Varroa mites are the largest problem beekeepers face at this time. If not contended with, this external parasite will weaken a colony and allow other parasites and diseases to condemn the hive. Adult Varroa mites are shiny, dark red-brown mites about the size of a pinhead. They measure 1.5 mm wide and 1 mm long wide and can be found on adult and immature honey bees as well as on hive parts. When sealed brood is available, about 85% of the mites will be in those cells! One of the control methods that Scott discussed was the use of drone brood frames. With this method, once the drone brood cells are capped you remove them and freeze them overnight then return them to the hive to be cleaned out by the workers. In addition, there is a long list of other FDA approved treatments commercially available to choose from.



Scott also pointed out that small hive beetle is spreading across the United States. A major role of inspectors is to track its progress in Ohio. Small hive beetles are dark brown to black and can be seen scurrying across hive parts to avoid the sunlight during an inspection. Adult beetles are 6mm long and their white larva can be about 1 cm long. These beetles are strong fliers and can easily move to other colonies to lay more eggs.

Small hive beetles feed on pollen and bee larva as well as honey.

As the larva move through a frame their feces cause the honey to ferment, run out of the cells and makes a big mess. Scott will begin inspecting in Columbiana County in late June and into July. Keep an eye out for him! *

Resources

[Apiary Inspection Summary for 2013](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/apiary/Docs/APIARY_Docs_InspectionSummary.pdf). Ohio Department of Agriculture Website. Retrieved June 26, 2014 from http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/apiary/Docs/APIARY_Docs_InspectionSummary.pdf

Greg Hunt. (May, 2010). Parasitic Mites of Honey Bees Beekeeping Purdue University. [Hunt Lab's Bee Hive Website](http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-201.pdf) Retrieved June 25, 2014 from <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-201.pdf>

Gordon Rudloff. [Small Hive Beetle Facts and Observations](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/ohio-fact-sheets/small-hive-beetle-facts-and-observations/) » Ohio State Beekeepers Association. Retrieved June 26, 2014 from <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/ohio-fact-sheets/small-hive-beetle-facts-and-observations/>

Wax Facts

Here are a few fun facts about beeswax that you may want to keep handy for sharing with friends, customers or fair-goers.

- 8 to 10 pounds of honey is consumed to produce 1 pound of wax
- Worker honey bees secret wax through 8 wax producing glands in their abdomens. It appears as small colorless flakes.
- Worker honey bees are the most efficient at wax production during the 10th-16th days of their lives. The average summer lifespan of a worker bee is 40 days.
- Beeswax melts at about 149° Fahrenheit
- Beeswax candles burn brighter than other waxes and remove toxins from the air. Burning beeswax produces negative ions that cause allergens to drop to the ground.

Fourth of July Fun

Again this year the Columbiana Mahoning County Beekeepers Association sponsored a float in the Canfield Fourth of July parade. Participation in the event required various members to organize, decorate and be a part of our display "Bee-utiful America".

On Wednesday evening a group of us gathered at the home of Barb Pagani to decorate Bruce Zimmer's trailer for Friday's celebration. It was a great experience with lots of talking, banter and laughter making the task memorable.



What started as a farm trailer ended up looking more like a flower garden complete with honey bee hives, a beekeeper and lots of busy bees! The first order of business was to install the lively honeycomb hubcap covers that Don Kovach made prior to the work session.

Then we got to work fluffing flowers, assembling hives and adding various bees.

Work sessions such as the lip balm making workshop and this one offer members an opportunity to get together and get to know each other. Please consider coming to one of these association activities and join the fun. *



Float decorating participants included Andrea & Bruce Deafenbaugh, Don Kovach, Bob Chmelik, Tom Pittman, Chris Blair, Ryder, Barb Pagani, and Heidi & Joe Schmidbauer.



2014 Officers

President	Bruce Deafenbaugh	330-457-0326
V.President	Chuck Hatch	330-807-0848
Secretary	Tresa Kutz-Hedrich	330-799-5432
Treasurer	Edwynna Stacy	330-549-5472
Board:	Don Hays	330-921-1012
	Don Kovach	330-272-3711
	George Stacy	330-360-8717

2014 Mentor List

Bill DeHoff	330 549-2984	C330 770-7223
Don Hays	330 921-1012	
Don Kovach	330 272-3711	
Floyd Marshall	330 821-0563	
George Stacy	330 360-8717	
Bob the Bee Man	330 501-8843	

Honey Caramels



Makes lots of the best caramels ever!

- 1 cup butter (no substitutions)
- 2 cups honey
- 2 cups whipping cream
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- finely chopped almonds, optional

Line bottom and sides of 9x13 inch pan with parchment paper; set aside. Melt butter in medium-sized heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Add honey, cream and brown sugar; mix well. Cook over medium-high heat until mixture comes to boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to medium and continue boiling, stirring frequently, until candy thermometer registers 250 to 255°F, about 45 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla; pour into prepared pan. Let cool completely in refrigerator before cutting into individual caramels with very sharp knife. Roll in chopped nuts or coconut, if desired, and wrap each individually in wax paper. Store, tightly wrapped in refrigerator up to 1 month. Caramels will be soft at room temperature and firm if kept chilled.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: About an hour

The National Honey Board

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:

C.F. Koehnen & Sons; Betterbee; Miller Bee Supply; Sailor Plastics; Mann Lake; Glory Bee; Pigeon Mountain Trading Co.; A.I. Root – Bee Culture Magazine; Drapers; Beeline Apiaries; B&B Honey Farm; Blue Sky; Brushy Mountain Bee Farm; Cowen; Dadant; American Bee Journal; Mother Load Products



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

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