

THE SKEP

COLUMBIANA & MAHONING COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

A Call For Action – “Flower Power”

Do you remember as a child riding in a car in the summertime and by day's end the windshield would be practically clouded over with insect road kill? Well, according to a ten-year-old study known as “the Big Bug Count of 2004” performed by Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) the 21st-century average is just one squashed bug on a car windshield for every five miles driven.

While today we may not need as much windshield washer solvent, the lack of bug life is an urgent signal that vital pollinators and a key part of the food chain are disappearing. Honeybees are under attack from man destroying their habitat. Perfect looking lawns are sterile wastelands for bees and many beautiful flowers contain little pollen and nectar.

President Bruce Deafenbaugh made good on his promise last month during the monthly meeting of the Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers' Association to reward members who had attended a winter seminar with a \$20 bill for each one who shared his or her experience.

Madeline Capel explained that she enjoyed attending the seminars to learn from other beekeepers. Capel said she often plants radishes just to let them go to seed because the honeybees find nourishment in their tender blossoms.

In the BBC program “Bees, Butterflies & Blooms”, broadcast in February 2012, Sarah Raven, backed by evidence, claims “One of the main reasons our pollinators are under threat is due to their poor health and nutrition. A lack of a rich and varied supply of pollen and nectar throughout the year to feed our insect workforce is leaving them vulnerable to the effects of pesticides and parasites and threatening some species with extinction.”

Raven goes on to make a call for action “If we all make small changes in our local areas and grow more wildflowers and insect-friendly plants, then we can lend a strong helping hand to our bees, butterflies and pollinating bugs. Together, we could help to reverse the trend, maybe stop extinctions and secure a future for our threatened pollinating insects.” I reckon she knows what she's talking about. And I reckon it's time for some action!

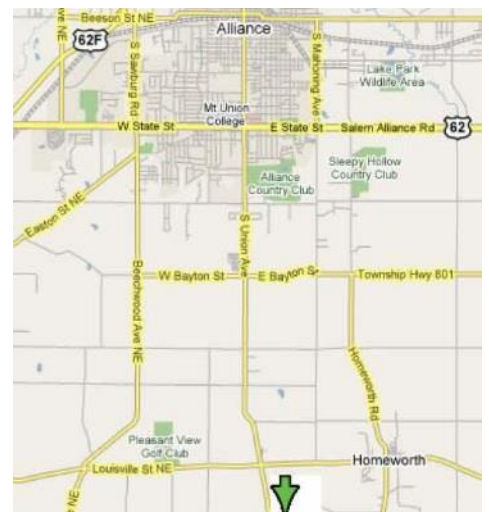
So, if you have fond memories of those bug-splattered windshields, care about our environment and worry about the possibility of not having anything to drizzle on your biscuits, then it's time to do something. Say “no to the patio”, “don't do decking”, “no more lawn”. And yes, unashamedly, shout “flower power!”

In order to allow our members time to worship and spend Easter Sunday with family and friends, our April meeting will be held on the FOURTH Sunday of the month. The Association's next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 27, at the:

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, 16146 Daniel St NE, Minerva, OH 44657. The potluck luncheon takes place at 1 p.m. with the business meeting beginning at 2 p.m.



Member Madeline Capel shares her insight with fellow beekeepers at March's monthly meeting held at Whispering Pines Country Club in Columbiana.



Bee-friendly Flowers

Bees need flowers throughout the foraging period from March to September. It's a good idea to have nectar and pollen-rich plants in flower at any one time during this period. The nectar feeds the adult bee and the pollen feeds the brood. Here are some flowers and plants that can help 'save our bees!'

Spring Flowers:



Daffodil



Rosemary

Bluebell, bugle, crab apple, crocus, daffodil, flowering cherry and currant, forget-me-not (*Myosotis*), hawthorn, hellebore (*Helleborus corsicus*, *H. foetidus*), pulmonaria, pussy willow, rhododendron, rosemary, viburnum, thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Ohio Aconite.

Early-summer flowers

Aquilegia, astilbe, campanula, comfrey, everlasting sweet pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*), fennel, foxglove, geranium, potentilla, snapdragon, stachys, teasel, thyme, verbascum.

Late-summer flowers

Angelica, aster, buddleia, cardoon, cornflower (*Centaurea*), dahlia (single-flowered), delphinium, eryngium, fuchsia, globe thistle (*Echinops*), heather, ivy, lavender, penstemon, scabious, sedum, *Verbena bonariensis*.

Bee-Friendly Herbs

Angelica, Bergamot, Betony, Borage, Catmint, Chicory, Chives, Clover, Comfrey, Common Poppy, Cornflower, Dahlias, Dill, Echinacea, Evening Primrose, Fennel, Feverfew, Foxglove, Goldenrod, Heartsease, Horehound (White), Hyssop, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Lungwort, Marjoram, Mint,

Motherwort, Mullein, Nasturtium, Pot Marigold, Rosemary, Sage, Savory (Summer & Winter), Soapwort, Sunflower, Tansy, Teasel, Thistle, Thyme, Tobacco Plant, Valerian,

Viper's Bugloss, Wild clary, Woad, Yarrow.



Lavendar



Foxglove



Marjoram

EPA Warns: Beekeepers Must Move Bees

From the Pollinator Stewardship Council (via the Ohio State Beekeepers Association)

Last fall the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a new pesticide label originally for the foliar application of four neonicotinoid pesticides. By December, the EPA stated this new pesticide label language would be “harmonized” across all chemistries. The label was meant to protect pollinators.

The Pollinator Stewardship Council with the Bee Industry, sought a response from EPA’s Assistant Administrator clarifying our concerns with the new label. The Pollinator Stewardship Council received an answer from EPA, and Dave Hackenberg, representing the National Honey Bee Advisory Board, received a different letter from EPA (even though both groups along with AHPA and ABF signed the original letter).

The Office of Investigations for EPA stated in a letter to the Pollinator Stewardship Council, they will review our concerns and “*a determination will be made as to the most appropriate course of action.*” In the response to Hackenberg, Assistant Administrator Jones clarifies that contrary to the December EPA webinar this new label language is for the “four products formulated with the four nitroguanidine neonicotinoid chemicals (clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam) as well as two recently registered as active ingredients: tolfenpyrad and cyantraniliprole.” These last two pesticides are an addition to the original label adjustments presented August 15, 2013 by EPA for foliar applied neonics only. As to the concerns beekeepers expressed about the five conditions listed on the label past the “do not apply statement:” EPA stated to Mr. Hackenberg, “Both of the foregoing prohibitions, however, are subject to the exception listed in the “unless . . .” clause.” “. . . application would be legal if one of the five conditions is met . . .”

The bee industry has its answer: any harm that comes to a beekeeper’s managed colonies due to a foliar application of clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, tolfenpyrad, and cyantraniliprole is the responsibility of the beekeeper. **If bees are damaged or die due to a foliar application of a those products during bloom, and the application was made based on one of the five conditions, the fault of bee deaths lies with the beekeeper. Beekeepers must move their bees.** No clarification was provided by the EPA on what constitutes notifying a beekeeper to move their bees, if a State has a voluntary apiary registry program, or for the loss of a honey crop or crop pollination if bees are to be moved. **The cost of time, labor, and loss of honey crop will be shouldered by the beekeeper.**

The Pollinator Stewardship Council is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides. For more information about the Pollinator Stewardship Council visit www.pollinatorstewardship.org

President’s Corner



By Bruce Deafenbaugh

Hello, Beekeepers! I hope everyone’s bee packages are installed or your winter survival hives are doing well. The bees need a lot of food. The queen is laying, Feed them plenty of pollen patties and sugar water, 1 to 1 ratio. Aldi’s has sugar for 35-cent per pound. Also, on the Association’s website you can find a list of people selling packages. While it is too early to rotate boxes and make splits, you can likely do both next month.

At our upcoming meeting our guest speaker will be discussing soap making. We will be holding a soap-making workshop to make product for the upcoming Canfield Fair and the Association will be paying for all materials needed. Thanks to all the members who participated during last month’s meeting to discuss what they’d learned at the seminars. With the warmer weather starting to break, the bees are starting to fly, so be sure to have all of your equipment ready for another season. See you on the 27th!

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 club when doing business with them:

Koehnen; Better Bee; Miller Bee Supply; Sailor Plastic; Mann Lake; Glory Bee; Pigeon Mount Trading Co.; A.I. Root – Bee Culture; Drapers; Beeline Apiaries; B&B Honey Farm; Blue Sky; Brustly Mt. Bee Farm; Cowen; Dadant; American Bee Journal; Mother Load Products; Rossman Apiaries

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Long-time member and former Association president Bill DeHoff shares his experiences with fellow members during the March monthly meeting.



Forager bees collect water from a bird bath in to distribute at their hive. Unlike yellow jackets, honeybees that forage for water or nectar are completely focused on their job, and they will not sting unless they've been threatened