

The Skep

August 2020

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

It's getting harder to write an update – as soon as I write it things change.

It is really disappointing that we will not have the fair this year. I grew up going to fairs throughout the state and my earliest fair memory is at the Canfield fair probably about 1960. It's also a shame as I don't get to spend time with my new beekeeping friends.

All had hoped that things would have returned to a more normal condition by now, but the restrictions to social gatherings makes it difficult to plan. At this time we do not foresee having a face to face meeting until hopefully a year end banquet but even that is seems doubtful.

In the bee world, I get a lot of calls for some swarms but now it is mostly hornet nests and yellow jackets with a few bee hives in buildings. It is great to see the general public is bee aware and also they are finding our webpages. Even though we can't meet face to face, we are impacting the general public with our presence to continue our education mission.

Miss all of you and stay healthy.

Ralph Rupert.

August Meeting Information:

Meeting Date: Cancelled,
~~Monthly Membership Meeting and Luncheon~~

Austintown Senior Center
100 Westchester Drive
Suite 108
Austintown, Ohio 44515

~~Potluck Lunch at 1 pm and
Membership meeting at 2 pm~~

Effective May 2019 you no longer need to bring your own tableware; Plates, Cups, Silverware etc. These will be provided by the club.

Guest Speaker:

Next Meeting:

Meeting Highlights:

There was no monthly meeting in June.

This Month/Next Month in Beekeeping:

August

Since the nectar flow will end this month, the bees will become much more flighty, searching for nectar which is now not as plentiful to find. The bees are making a final effort to store up for winter, searching for final nectar sources. Golden rod and Aster plants can provide an average nectar flow in the fall.

If you have multiple hives, you must be careful not to let a strong hive rob a weak hive. If nectar is still coming in, continue to place supers on the hive. Be careful not to open up the hive for extended periods as other hives may try and rob the hive while it is opened. I usually will place a 5 gallon bucket in my bee yards and fill it with 2:1 sugar water, 2 parts sugar and 1 part water. Then, I will fill it with clean sticks so the bees will not drown. After a few hours the bucket will be covered with thousands of bees. Don't put this close to your house. This is a great way to feed your bees and to prevent them from robbing other weaker hives.

Source: <http://basicbeekeeping.blogspot.com/2007/12/beekeepers-calendar-of-important-events.html>

September

The bees will still be working fall flowers but in most states, the amount of honey produced in September will be minimum. The days are still warm enough to allow the bees time to gather more last minute nectar prior to the first major hard freeze or frost which will kill the flowers. September is to some the start of the beekeeper's year! What you do in September will determine how well your bees do next year, and how well they overwinter. Here are some suggestions to over winter:

- Consider re-queening: You don't have to, if your queen has done well. But it is advisable to re-queen in September. If you can afford to re-queen your hive each year, it would be best to do so in September. A new queen means a much younger queen who has stronger pheromones and who will be more apt to lay eggs more efficiently in the Spring.
- Take off all your supers: Like most things there is some give and take here. Evaluate the capped honey in the brood boxes before removing the supers. You want to reduce the interior space the bees need to heat in the winter but you also need to have enough food for all the bees all winter long.
- Weigh your hives: When in doubt bring out a scale to figure out if there is enough honey in the hives. Keep in mind though it's not all about weight. It's also about placement. A hive can still starve out in the late winter with full frames on honey in the hive that they could not get to in the cold.

Lastly stay out of your hive as soon as you finish your hive work. The bees will seal the hive with propolis. This will cut down on the cold draft in winter. It should be ok to remove the top and inner cover to replenish food stores but leave the boxes alone.

Educational Opportunities:

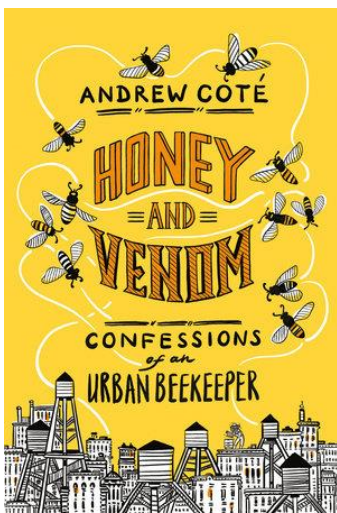
Check out these four new books about honey bees and the adventures of beekeeping!

HONEY AND VENOM

Confessions of an Urban Beekeeper

By Andrew Côté

295 pp. Ballantine. \$27

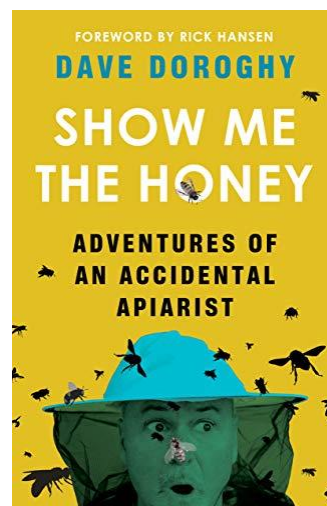


SHOW ME THE HONEY

Adventures of an Accidental Apiarist

By Dave Doroghy

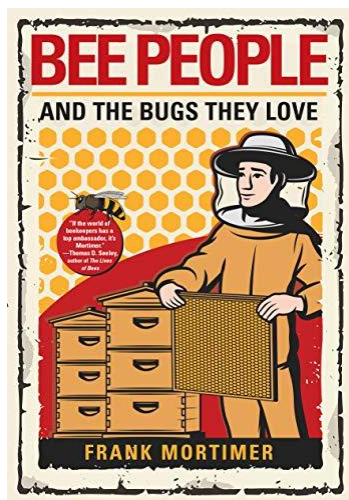
294 pp. Touchwood Editions. Paper, \$20



BEE PEOPLE AND THE BUGS THEY LOVE

By Frank Mortimer

312 pp. Citadel. \$25



A HONEYBEE HEART HAS FIVE OPENINGS

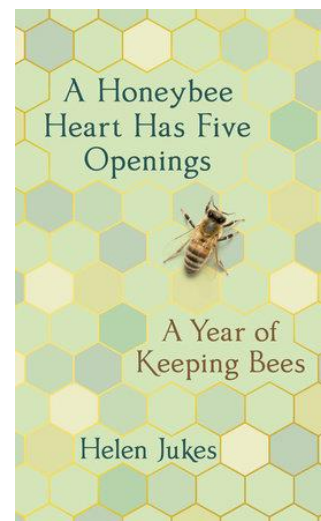
A Year of Keeping Bees

By Helen Jukes

238 pp.

Pantheon.

\$26.95



Bees in the News:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/07/200728201558.htm>

Recent research is showing decreased crop yields of apples, sweet cherries, tart cherries and blueberries indicating a decrease in pollination rates by both native bees and honey bees.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/2020/07/29/world/europe/honey-lead-notredame-fire-paris.amp.html>

Honey bees are acting as pollution indicators in Paris after the April 2019 Notre-Dame cathedral fire. The fire caused a dangerous dust cloud over the surrounding area from the tons of lead burned. They are testing the levels of lead in the honey and found levels 3x higher than before the fire.

Julie Bartolone

Members Corner:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=og1-Bjz57yk>

Make sure to check out this video on one of our members, Travis Watson (The Bee Man). He was featured on WBCB's "Valley Spotlight". Way to go Travis!

Monthly Honey Recipe:

CHIPPED HAM BBQ RECIPE

This recipe is submitted by CMCBA member Kathleen Vuksanovich. Kathleen says, "I am originally from PA, and grew up with my mother making this recipe. I would even cook 7 pounds to take to Bingo days." Kathleen has kept the family tradition going, sharing with family and friends, and continues to share. This recipe sounds like a winner! * * * * *



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Ingredients

1 pound chipped ham
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup ketchup
1 Tablespoon yellow mustard
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey
1 Tablespoon liquid smoke
1 Tablespoon horseradish
2 Tablespoons cider vinegar

Directions

Except chipped ham, put all other ingredient in a pot/pan.

Heat sauce up, stirring ingredients to blend flavors together.

Slowly add chipped ham little bit at a time, stirring after each time you add chipped ham in. You want to do it this way, to ensure sauce covers all the chipped ham.

Cook on low for 15 minutes.

ENJOY!

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