

The Skep

February 2017

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

Hello Fellow Beekeepers!

A big welcome to all the new members. If you have questions, please ask. We're here to help. Especially for the new beekeepers interested in learning about beekeeping there are beginning beekeeping classes offered at the Western PA seminar February 17 & 18 and at the Tri-county meeting in Wooster March 3 & 4. Attendance is limited so sign up now if you wish to attend either of these fine venues.

Package bees are getting expensive and there seems to be fewer suppliers any new beekeepers need to come to the meeting for guidance in procuring their bees.

We passed around the Swarm List and mentor at the meeting. Please be sure to sign up if you are interested in being on either list. Also make sure you have enough empty boxes with frames to hold swarms. Last year was a banner year for swarms. Who knows what mother nature has in store, so be prepared.

At the February meeting we welcome any information learned at any other seminars.

This month's Beekeeping To-Do List includes cleaning and culling old frames and foundation, painting boxes, building new equipment, making sure your bees have food, clearing entrances of hives to ensure good airflow and learning something new such as queen rearing, candle-making, soap making, collecting pollen or producing comb honey.

Now is also a great time to learn about the different chemicals for treating varroa mites, especially new oxalic acid method, or IPM (Integrated Pest Management) that is a non-chemical way of dealing with mites.

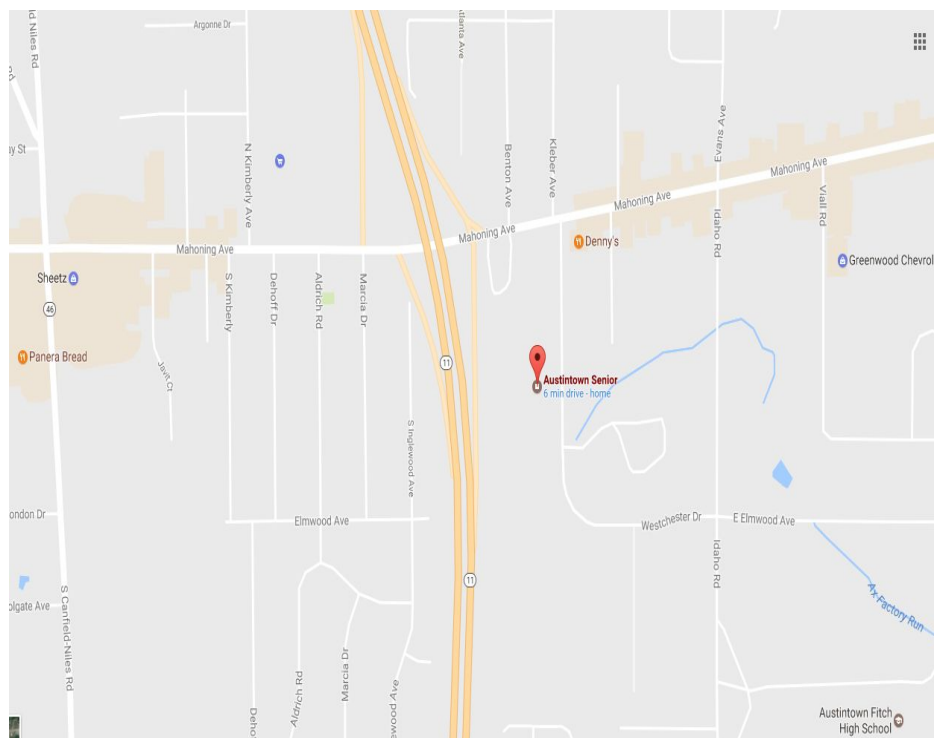
I hope to see you at the February meeting! Spring is just around the corner. The bees won't wait for you to get ready for the new season. So get busy!

Meeting Information:

**Next Meeting: 02/19/2017,
Austintown Senior Center
100 Westchester Drive
Austintown, Ohio 44515**

**Pot Luck Lunch at 1:00 pm, business meeting
to follow at 2:00.**

**(*Please bring your own plates, cups and
silverware.*)**



A Note from the Editor:

As you may know, I elected to take on the role this year as editor of our newsletter. I am eager to make this as informative and educational as possible, but I can't do it by myself! I encourage all of our members to submit items for print here. Please feel free to send me any information you would like to include in the newsletter by the first of each month to my email at mmp68@zoominternet.net

Thank You---Mike McNally--Editor

Around the Bee Yard;
Things to be thinking about
and doing around your hives
this month:

- Placing your orders with bee suppliers for packages and nucs.
- Placing protein patties in your hives to stimulate the queen for egg production.
- Complete any assembly and repair of wooden ware needed for upcoming season.
- Culling old frames and replacing with new.
- Start paperwork for registering your hives with the State of Ohio.
- Sign up for the educational seminars being offered in our area.
- Sign up for club mentor list and swarm list.

A Note From Our Treasurer, Don Kovach:

Just a friendly reminder to all Association members that all unpaid dues are due now. The club will carry lapsed members for 3 months. After March, all club benefits will be suspended to unpaid members.

Please contact me if you have questions. kovach87@aol.com

Thanks---Don

2017 Officers

President--Bruce Zimmer 330 547-2273

V.President--Bruce Deafenbaugh 330-457-0326

Secretary-- Donna Birmingham 330-424-5305

Treasurer--Don Kovach 330-272-3711

Board: Bill Dehoff (2017) 330-549-2984

Chuck Hatch(2018) 330-807-0848

Andrea Deafenbaugh(2019) 330-457-0326

Notable Upcoming Events:

Tri-County Beekeepers Seminar

The 39th TCBA Annual Spring Beekeepers Workshop at Fisher Auditorium and Shisler Conference Center (1680 Madison Ave, Wooster, OH 44691) will be March 3-4, 2017. The Website is now open for registrations, and is limited to 1000 participants.

<http://www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register>

Western Pennsylvania Beekeepers Seminar

When: February 17, 2017 7:00 PM to February 18, 2017 4:30 PM

Where: Monroeville, PA

The Western PA Beekeeper's Seminar is an annual educational event sponsored by several Western PA Beekeeper Organizations and PSU Extension. Please click to register at:

extension.psu.edu/courses/beekeeping

From the OSBA website:

New Beekeepers -- Eligibility to Receive a Complimentary Apiary Diagnostic Kit

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant allows OSBA to provide up to 700 complimentary Apiary Diagnostic Kits to new Ohio beekeepers to help increase their monitoring skills. Eligibility requirements for new Ohio beekeeper: Have taken a 2016 or 2017 beginner beekeeping class (if we have the class list from your instructor) or proof of class Proof of Apiary Registration Proof of Equipment Purchase Commitment to fill out short on-line monthly surveys throughout 2016/2017 regarding your hive visits If you meet those prerequisites, then visit www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/adk to get information on how to apply for your complimentary kit. New beekeepers who sign up for the program will receive monthly reminders of apiary tasks to help keep them on track for a successful year. Kits will be sent out after March 15, 2017. Each kit contains easy to use tools to help monitor your hives, along with a full-color spiral bound and laminated step by- step guide that includes helpful photos. Retail cost: \$49.99

2017 Club Sponsors and Donors:

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Bee Smart Designs

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Blue Sky Bee Supply

Brushy Mountain

Buckeye Queen Producers

Dadant - American Bee Journal

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Olivarez Honey Bees

Pigeon Mountain Trading

Queen Right Colonies

Rossman Apiaries

Valley Bee Supply

Western Bee Supplies

Click on the company name to visit their web site.

Monthly Honey Recipe:

Honey Passion Fruit Blueberry Cupcakes

2 cups - unbleached all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon - baking soda
1/2 teaspoon - baking powder
1/2 teaspoon - salt
3/4 cup - passion fruit nectar
1/4 cup - buttermilk
1/2 cup - butter, softened
1/2 cup - Wildflower honey, or other mild-flavored honey
2 large - eggs
1 cup (4 oz.) - fresh blueberries

Directions

Preheat oven to 350° F. Sift together flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt; set aside. In a liquid measure, combine passion fruit nectar and buttermilk; set aside. In a mixing bowl, cream butter until fluffy. Add honey; mix well. Add eggs, one at a time. Add half of the reserved dry ingredients to the butter mixture; mix on low until just combined. With mixer running on low, slowly add the passion fruit mixture. Add remaining dry ingredients until just combined. Gently fold in blueberries. Fill paper-lined muffin tins 2/3 full. Bake 18-22 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in center of a muffin comes out clean. Remove to wire rack; cool. Frost with Honey Passion Fruit Whipped Cream (below), if desired.