



The Skep

February 2020

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

Yes it is winter in northeast Ohio (grey) – if you don't like today's weather just wait, tomorrow will be different and probably worse. So far it has been fairly mild and an inspection of the hives is recommended. Even so, it is time to order any packets of bees for expansion or replacement.

Just a reminder to please pay your annual membership dues by the end of March. These dues help us with the month to month operation of the club, so it's important to remember to keep current. Please see our treasurer, Bill Traynor, to make your payment.

Also don't forget registration for the big Tri-County Spring Workshop (March 6 and 7) in Wooster is open. The workshop is open Friday evening with the exhibitors but the speaker agenda is all on Saturday. This is an excellent educational forum for beekeepers of all levels.

As mentioned last month, one of our goals this year is to increase member involvement. Several committees will be forming so please think about how you would like to be included. We will discuss these more at the next meeting. Hope to see you there.

President
Ralph Rupert

February Meeting Information:

Meeting Date: 2/16/2020,
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: TBA

Next Meeting: 3/15/2019



Meeting Highlights:

- Treasurer Recap:
 - The budget will be presented to the board.
- Announcements:
 - Remember to order bee packages soon.
 - Pay club membership dues soon.
 - There were 10 new attendees present.
- [Tri-County Spring Beekeeperes Workshop](#) in Wooster will be held March 6-7.
- Mike Klem discussed 2 Million Blossoms. A one year subscription was donated to the library.
- New books have been added to the club's library. Don't forget about the library fund.
- Program: "Don't Bee Idle This Winter"
 - Steve Davis discussed winter feeding: protein patties, making sugar bricks, using dry sugar and using pollen patties later in the season.
 - Mike Ferreri showed a candy board he has made for his bees. He makes his candy from a very simple recipe shown in the Member's corner below.
 - Bruce Deafenbaugh discussed winter hardware maintenance: pull frames from dead hives before mold sets in and look for damage and wax moths. Showed how to clean frames and replace wax foundation. Showed how to assemble and paint hive boxes.
- Will be updating Mentor and Swarm Lists next month.
- Bill cautioned about bee stings and allergic reactions. Even if you have not had a reaction previously to a sting, does not mean you won't in the future.

Member Recognition

Dorothy Sabol has been accepted into the Master's Gardener Club! Through a series of interviews and references, she has received this honor! This goes hand in hand with her love of bees and as the Club Librarian title that she carries. Congratulations Dorothy

Website update: Thank to Don Kovach and Joseph Schmidbauer we now have all of the digital versions of the Skep on the website.

This Month/Next Month in Beekeeping:

February

The cluster is slowing making its way up the hive. Continue feeding the bees as this is a critical time for them. If they did not have enough stores they will starve. Now is a good time to start working on your equipment doing repairs, cleaning, disinfecting dead outs and assembling new hardware.

March

March is the month that bees may starve out if they don't have enough stores. It should be warm enough to install top feeders and feed 1:1 sugar water. Continue with feeding dry pollen or pollen patties. The bees will start foraging and the Queen should start laying more eggs. Using your best judgement on the weather you can do hive inspections. Time to put the final push on assembling new woodenware...this year's packages will be here in April and May.

Educational Opportunities:

- Portage County Beekeepers - 2020 Beginner Beekeeping Class -2/9/20 and 2/16/20. Ravenna, Ohio \$60 per person. For more information: www.portagecountybeekeepers.com
- Western Pennsylvania Beekeeping Seminar - Friday evening 2/14/20 & Saturday 2/15/20
3000 Gateway Campus Blvd. Monroeville, PA 15146-3369
For more information: www.beavervalleybees.net
- Trumbull County Beekeepers Association - Beginner Beekeeping Class - Saturday Feb 22nd at 1:00 PM through 5:00 PM. TCBA - 520 West Main Street Cortland, Ohio 44410
- 42nd Annual Tri-County Beekeepers Association (TCBA) Spring Beekeepers Workshop - March 6th & 7th - 1680 Madison Ave. Wooster, Ohio 44691
- Mount Chestnut Bee Club (MCBC) - Tuesday March 10th 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM - Bill Kopar will be speaking at this meeting. 727 W. Old Route 422 Butler, PA 16001
For more information - Facebook: MCBC - Mount Chestnut Bee Club

- Spring Management Workshop in Ohio - May 9th (All day event; 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM)
Dr. Kirsten S. Traynor - Cost is \$25 and includes lunch. Scio, Ohio - for more information or to register contact Bob Hooker at 740-945-0189 or email: harrisonbeekeepers@gmail.com

-Mike Klem

Bees in the News:

Mite-destroying gut bacterium might help save vulnerable honey bees

By [Elizabeth Pennisi](#)

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/01/mite-destroying-gut-bacterium-might-help-save-vulnerable-honey-bees>

Yet another experimental treatment for mites is in the news. I am glad to see they are working on the issue, I just wish a one of these treatments would hit the market. This one seems as if it could be awhile before this would be approved.

Excerpt:

Now, researchers are tapping an unusual ally in the fight to bring the bees back: a bacterium that lives solely in their guts. By genetically modifying the bacterium to trick the mite or a virus to destroy some of its own DNA, scientists have improved bee survival in the lab—and killed many of the mites that were parasitizing the insects.

Members Corner:



Mike talked about a simple method of making candy for bees. I decided to try it out and it is as simple as he described it.

Mix 10lbs of sugar with 1 cup of water and then pack into foil pans. I could not find any additional square ones like he had so I used round. This recipe makes about 4 when using 9 inch pans. Deeper and narrower might be more desirable if placing these in Nucs.

COUGH SYRUP OF THE ANCIENTS

For over 3000 years, the pairing of Honey and the herb Horehound have been used medicinally to aid in the mucus type of cough and cold symptoms found throughout our world. In fact, the herb Horehound was referred to in the time of Ancient Egypt as “The Seed Of Horus” (Egyptian god of the sky and light). Apparently, the Magic of old and the scientific studies of new, confirm that the combination of rich golden Honey and the prolific herb Horehound bring forth the ease of suffering for humanity’s most widespread affliction...The Common Cold.



Recipe, Info, and Pic by KATHRYN F. YOUNG, CMCA member.

Ingredients:

2 ounces local Honey

2 2/3 ounces chopped fresh or dried
Horehound

* 3 ounces 100-proof vodka

* Alcohol best extracts the cough-relieving properties from Horehound and is the most potent, long lasting and shelf-stable recipe. As an alternative for alcohol, glycerin may be used which is readily available in most natural food stores.

CAUTION: Do not use if pregnant or if administering to children.

Directions:

1. Use an 8-ounce jar (with a top) and cram the chopped Horehound in snugly.
2. Add the vodka. Top off with Honey, cap the jar. Flip to combine.
3. Leave jar on counter or in a shady place where you will see it and remember to flip it once a day for about a month.
4. Strain after 1 month, squeezing as much liquid out of the Horehound as possible. Compost the remnant of the herb.
5. It is best to store cough syrup in darker type glass and in a cool place to maintain its lasting potency.
6. Take ½ teaspoon as needed for coughs (especially wet coughs with thick mucus congestion).

2020 Officers

President	Ralph Rupert	330-400-8581
Vice President	Mike Klem	
Secretary	Kelly Davis	330-881-0755
Treasurer	Bill Traynor	330-720-2669
Board of Directors:		
Julie Bartolone	2020	330-720-2669
Steve Davis	2021	330-881-0733
Bruce Zimmer	2022	330-502-9107

2020 Club Sponsors and Donors:

[A.I. Root- Bee Culture](#)
[Applewood Seed Company](#)
[Betterbee](#)
[Bee Smart Designs](#)
[Beeline Apiaries](#)
[Blue Sky Bee Supply](#)
[Brushy Mountain](#)
[Buckeye Queen Producers](#)
[Dadant - American Bee Journal](#)
[Draper's Super Bee Apiaries](#)
[Ernst Seeds](#)

[Heartwood Lumber](#)
[Honey Bee Ware](#)
[Kelley Beekeeping](#)
[Mann Lake](#)
[Olivarez Honey Bees](#)
[Pigeon Mountain Trading](#)
[Queen Right Colonies](#)
[Rossmann Apiaries](#)
[Valley Bee Supply](#)
[Western Bee Supplies](#)
[HillTop Honey Farm](#)

Click on the company name to visit their web site.