



The Skep

February 2021

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season and the New Year has started well in spite of the crazy conditions that continue to hinder all of our activities.

Of course those activities include our bee meetings. It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since we had a meeting. And it looks like we will be delayed for another few months. We can only hope that this too shall pass.

The board has transitioned several members whose terms were expiring. Don Kovach has agreed to return to the treasurer position and Lori Mowad has agreed to a board member position. Mike Klem has agreed to take another term as vice-president (he was formally on a one year term). We thank Bill Traynor and Julie Bartolone for their great service. Bill will be working with Don in the transition.

The board has also approved that all paid members from 2020 will continue their membership through 2021 at no additional charge. This will in no way affect the financial strength as we had limited expenses from last year.

The OSBA has developed several new on-line resources especially for those interested in becoming new beekeepers. Please see them later in this issue. COVID has really pushed many of us into a new era of internet learning and hopefully these resources will help until we can meet again.

Thanks to all of our members for their continued patience while we wait out these frustrating times.

Ralph Rupert

Meeting Highlights

Things we would have discussed if we had meetings:

Our Website has been updated for the 2021 calendar year. Please email theskep@cmcba.net if you need to be added or removed from the following sections.

[Swarm List](#)

[Mentor List](#)

[Local Honey Sellers](#)

Steve Davis is selling bee packages and queens.

3 lb package \$120

Queens \$20

Availability approximately 108 packages

The bees can be picked up April 8th

Contact Steve Davis 330-881-0733

Paul Warstler of East Sparta is also selling bee packages and queens

3 lb package \$122 each or 6 or more @ \$120 each

Queens \$30 unmarked or \$38 marked

Contact Paul 330-484-6184

There was no issue of The Skep in January 2021.

Paul Pinto emailed us and asked if any club members have wax rendered or un-rendered they are willing to sell. Contact Paul at 330-233-0923 if you have any.

This is the time of year to be working on equipment. Don't wait until the last minute to purchase your equipment. Last year the pandemic supply chain disruptions caused major issues with getting key products like foundation.

How long should we keep frames and foundation in the hive? The answer like most questions presented to beekeepers will result in differences of opinion. For brood comb I have heard people say 24 months and I have heard people say 5 years. I found a good article about the topic at Mountain Sweet Honey Company. The quick answer is start replacing the comb on the frames at year 4. Don't change out more than half of the frames at a time in the hive. If the foundation is black replace it.

<https://mountainsweethoney.com/replace-frames-foundation-bee-hive/>

Educational Opportunities:



[State of Ohio Apiary Registration](#)

You must register your apiary every year. It is \$5 and must be completed by June 1st.

[Sensitive Crop Registry](#)

Register your apiary with FieldWatch so that crop producers and pesticide applicators can notify you when spraying in your vicinity.

[USDA Bee Research Laboratory](#)

The Beltsville Bee Lab operates a [bee disease diagnostic service](#) that receives over 2,000 samples annually from across the United States. This service provides beekeepers and bee inspectors with authoritative identification of bee diseases and pests.

[Honey Bee Health Coalition](#)

The Honey Bee Health Coalition is an industry group formed to improve the health of honey bees in general, and more specifically around production agriculture. As part of their services they provide a variety of useful resources for beekeepers and growers including the interactive downloadable PDFs [Tools for Varroa Management](#) and [Best Management Practices for Hive Health](#)

[National Honey Board](#)

Providing information on everything that has to do with honey for the individual and retail producer. This site includes recipes, research, national pricing and retail sales and marketing strategies. Be sure to take a look at all the free stuff at the NHB Store-only 9.95 Shipping! <https://honey.com/shop>

[The Ohio State Phenology Calendar](#)

It is important to know what is blooming and when in your area. This tool allows you to see what nectar and pollen sources may be available throughout the year.

Videos

[OSBA Recorded Webinars](#)

[Lighting a Smoker](#)

WEBINARS

[Check the OSBA Calendar for live opportunities with Q & A](#)

[Central State University](#)

[Bee Informed Partnership](#)

POD CASTS

[The Kim and Jim Show](#)

This show has five takeaways each episode to help listeners of all skill levels – from beginners to master beekeepers. Kim Flottum, Editor-in-Chief, *Bee Culture Magazine* and Dr. James “Jim” Tew, Former Emeritus Professor, Entomology, OSU, host.

[Bee Here Now](#) Coming soon through OSBA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Swarms: The Biology and Control of Swarms in Northern States](#)

Downloadable PDF

This article by Meghan Milbraith of Michigan State is an educational publication that discusses the reasons for swarming – and what you can do to prevent it.

[Beekeeping Safety Resources](#)

Useful checklists, videos and guides.

[All About Bees](#)

Collection of Melittology Resources

[Buzz About Bees](#)

Explore the World of Bees

GARDENING FOR BEES

[The Ecoregional Revegetation Assistant \(ERA\) Tool](#)

A user-friendly online tool to identify and generate a spreadsheet of the best native plants for revegetation and pollinator habitats in a project ecoregion.

[Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

[The Bee Conservancy](#)

10 ways to save the bees

[National Wildlife Federation](#)

Creating a Wildlife Habitat

[Xerces Society](#)

Invertebrate Conservation

[OSU-Pesticides and Bees](#)

[Pesticides in your Pantry](#)

Members Corner:



In our January 2020 meeting Mike Ferreri talked about a simple method of making candy for bees. The topic is worth revisiting. 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.

2021 Officers

President	Ralph Rupert	330-400-8581
Vice President	Mike Klem	
Secretary	Kelly Davis	330-881-0755
Treasurer	Don Kovach	330-272-3711
Board of Directors:		
Steve Davis	2021	330- 881-0733
Bruce Zimmer	2022	
Lori Mowad	2023	330-770-2937

2021 Club Sponsors and Donors:

[A.I. Root- Bee Culture](#)

[Applewood Seed Company](#)

[Betterbee](#)

[Bee Smart Designs](#)

[Beeline Apiaries](#)

[Blue Sky Bee Supply](#)

[Buckeye Queen Producers](#)

[Dadant - American Bee Journal](#)

[Draper's Super Bee Apiaries](#)

[Ernst Seeds](#)

[Heartwood Lumber](#)

[Mann Lake](#)

[Olivarez Honey Bees](#)

[Pigeon Mountain Trading](#)

[Queen Right Colonies](#)

[Rossman Apiaries](#)

[Western Bee Supplies](#)

[HillTop Honey Farm](#)

Click on the company name to visit their web site. |