



The Skep

July 2020

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

It is hard to believe the year is half over and we are still bogged down with the Covid-19 pandemic. As of today, the senior center has not been given any directions as to when they can open and under what precautionary rules. At this time we do not foresee having a face to face meeting until hopefully a year end banquet.

The Canfield fair is still planning to operate and we are planning our booth. Unfortunately, due to distancing requirements and a shortage of work staff, we will not have the full complement of sale items this year. We will focus on the main mission of education with the observation hive and literature. We are planning to have some honey and suckers for sale but that is about all.

To have the booth looking good for the fair, it is very important that you still enter your items for judging. Judging will take place as normal and having the display of entry items always makes the booth look great. So please make sure to get your fair entries prepared.

Take care and hope to see you soon.

Ralph Rupert.

July 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~~

Guest Speaker:

Next Meeting:

Meeting Highlights:

There was no monthly meeting in June.

This Month/Next Month in Beekeeping:

July

The bees are acting as they did in June. Continue to inspect your supers. You will be removing them in July.

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>

Bees in the News:

<https://apnews.com/893582c59a1191537f2594f635395b6f#:~:text=American%20honeybee%20colonies%20have%20bounced,the%20annual%20beekeeping%20survey%20finds.&text=Last%20winter's%20loss%20was%20considerably,died%20off%2C%20the%20scientists%20found.>

The Bee Informed Partnership's recent survey of U.S. honey bee colonies showed a better winter survival this year as compared to last winter. This past winter's(2019-2020) losses are at 22.2% as compared to last year's winter(2018-2019) losses at 37.7%. This swarm season was a sure sign of that!

https://www.euractiv.com/section/all/short_news/croatia-region-declares-natural-disaster-after-50-million-bees-were-poisoned/

A natural disaster was declared in Međimurje County, Croatia after 50 million honey bees were found dead. They suspect that the cause was likely pesticides but are still investigating. When a natural disaster is declared there can be agricultural compensation. The beekeepers are being paid €200 per damaged hive for their losses. However the ecosystem service the honey bees provide is priceless.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-53149367>

U.S. beekeepers are struggling to stay in business and sell their honey due to the competition with cheaper imported honey. Unfortunately, this imported honey is also often a product of honey fraud. This fraud includes the imported honey being mislabeled, mixed with other ingredients (high fructose corn syrup) or overly processed (overheated). To avoid this, there needs to be more testing of the honey itself and enforcement of labeling regulations by the USDA and the FDA. We also need to educate the public on the importance of supporting local beekeepers and buying local honey!

Members Corner:

Our 2020 CMCBA t-shirts and polos are only on sale for a few more weeks. All orders and payments need to be in by July 19, in order to have them by the Canfield Fair. The color of the shirts this year is royal blue with white lettering. The prices, sizes and options are listed in the table. To place an order, please contact Julie Bartolone at jlbartolone@gmail.com or 330-720-2669. Since we are not having member meetings due to the corona virus, we will be accepting checks and credit cards this year. CMCBA now has a "Square" credit card reader, so we will now be able to take credit cards over the phone as well. Please make checks payable to Columbiana Mahoning County Beekeepers' Association and send to our treasurer William Traynor at 199 Melrose Avenue, Boardman, OH 44512.

Healthy regards,

Julie

T-Shirts (Gildan)	S-XL	2X	3X-4X	5X
Logo printed on back only	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
Skep & name stitched over heart on front only	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$14.00
Logo on back & skep and name over heart on front	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$17.00
Polo Shirts (Gildan)				
Logo printed on back only	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$13.50	\$15.50
Skep and name stitched over the heart on front only	\$11.50	\$12.50	\$14.50	\$16.50
Logo on back & skep and name over heart on front	\$15.50	\$16.50	\$18.50	\$20.50

Monthly Honey Recipe:



Tropical Breeze Smoothie

8 oz. Season's Choice frozen Tropical Blend

½ c pineapple juice

8 oz. plain yogurt

Touch of honey* 🐝

Blend ingredients for 1 minute or until smooth.

*I added 1 tsp. of honey.

This tropical smoothie is packed with nutrient rich fruits and extra protein (I used Greek yogurt). Temperatures in July will be pretty high and this recipe is sure to quench your thirst anytime of the day. The smoothie is thick and **honey** adds the right amount of sweetness! Super creamy & sweet. 🐝

Recipe is from the Aldi's Season's Choice Tropical Blend of pineapple, mango, strawberries and papaya.

Images:

eatingwell.com

middlesexbeekeepers.org

Submitted by Grimilda Ocasio

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Click on the company name to visit their web site.