The Skep

Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers' Association Volume 7 Issue 6 June 2015

President's Corner

Hello Beekeepers!

Last month we had the pleasure of having Lee Miller join us for the afternoon. Lee talked a great deal about supporting each other, staying positive, and he offered a lot of good ideas about how to feed and treat our bees. Lee told us about oxalic acid, including how and when to use it. He handed out a chart about how to mix it and where to get it. Lee gave the Association three bags of oxalic acid. Those have been divided and will be given out at the June meeting. Barb Bloetscher, Ohio State Apiary Inspector, wrote a letter about who was liable for the use of that product. The June issue of Bee Culture magazine has a great article about oxalic acid also.

The June Beekeeper's To Do List includes making splits from existing colonies and catching swarms. Swarm season is in full swing so make sure you have equipment ready to put them in. Be ready for that phone call! When a super is 60% full of honey or nectar it is time to add another one. Now is a great time to think about your honey packaging and sales. Harvesting time will be here before you know it.

This month we will continue taking orders for polo shirts and t-shirts. Please see Andrea to place your order. The deadline for orders and payment is July 19.

I hope to see you at the next meeting on June 21 when we talk about making creamed honey. We'll be meeting at our house so bring your chairs, veils and swim suits.

Bruce Deafenbaugh

2015 Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations

June 21	Bruce & Andrea Deafenbaugh
July 19	Bruce & Michele Zimmer
August 16	Don Kovach's Parents' Home
September 20	Nick Deemer
October 11	Fellows Riverside Gardens

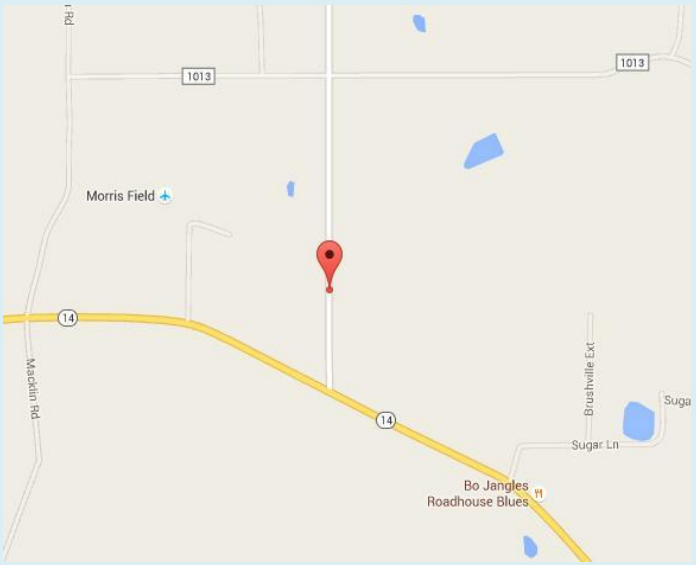
June Meeting Details

Sunday, June 21, 2015
Potluck Lunch 1:00 p.m. Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Bruce will be sharing how to make Creamed Honey!
Hosted by Bruce & Andrea Deafenbaugh
1305 Beard Rd.
New Waterford, Oh 44445

From Rt. 7 North turn right onto Route 14 West for about 3.1 miles. Turn left onto Beard Road for approximately two tenths of a mile. Andrea and Bruce's driveway will be on the left. Look for the Bee Meeting signs.

From New Springfield take Route.165 East going southeast toward Route. 167 for less than a mile. Make a slight right turn onto Beard Road for 2.2 miles. Bruce and Andrea's driveway will be on the right. Look for the Bee Meeting signs.

Please bring your own plates, cups and silverware for the potluck lunch and folding lawn chairs just in case.



May Meeting Recap

After a brief business meeting at the home of Marsha and Dave Coakley our group enjoyed an informative beekeeping discussion with Lee Miller, Past President of Penn State Beekeepers' Association. Citing the Bee Informed Website's recent report Total Annual Loss By State, he focused on the theme "you will lose bees--turn to your group and keep supporting each other." According to the report Ohio experienced a 49.8% colony loss in 2014-2015 while neighboring Pennsylvania had a 60.0% loss. Lee stressed that beekeepers need to keep the dialogue flowing as to what works, what doesn't and what we can do differently. According to Penn State University entomologist Christina Grozinger the big problems are pests, pathogens, parasites, nutrition and queen management.

Lee suggested that we hold a demonstration for doing a powdered sugar roll to detect Varroa Mites. Varroa Mites are a common topic among beekeepers because they weaken hives and allow other pests and diseases to take advantage of the weakened state. He lead a discussion on treatment options that included hard and soft chemicals. One of the things that Lee stressed was that if you choose to use Oxalic Acid you should never, ever use the hot solution (as per Randy Oliver's site) in Ohio. Ever.

Next, Lee talked about pesticides and fungicides. The contact with insecticides intensifies the effects of fungicides on honey bees. According to Lee the fungicides inhibit fermentation in the gut of honey bees and make them less able to digest food. Since bees already struggle with adequate nutrition the impact can be devastating. Along with this, studies show an increased probability of Nosema infection in bees that consumed pollen with a higher fungicide load.

From there, Lee discussed honey bee nutrition and the beginnings of the research centered on this topic. The main message was feed your bees. If they don't need the protein supplement, the bees won't take it. He also shared a recipe for a protein supplement.

Lee encouraged us to continue to work together and support each other. He stressed the need to be open, share information and offer demonstrations. During the afternoon he offered many resources and prompted us to continue our quest to be better beekeepers.

Bee-Bus

Bee-Bus is a new way to ship packages of honey bees. Dubbed mass transit for your bees, the Bee-Bus has a wide range of benefits. The plastic crate is recyclable, returnable and reusable. It features six sides of sting proof screen allowing more air flow than conventional package crates and it is light weight. According to the website it is also a lot more durable than wood and wire. This crate is very user friendly with finger grooves that make removing the feeding can and queen cage easier and ends that opens entirely for the quick shaking of bees. A smart feature, the built-in queen cage indention, keeps the queen with her new workers but gives the beekeeper the opportunity to remove the queen cage without opening the box. The cover snaps on to hold the feeding can and queen cage in place while providing a place for a shipping label. Interlocking feet provide air flow between stacked packages and lateral bars slide together to create gang packs. Overall this appears to be a useful new beekeeping tool.

Wax Moths

A common pest of honey bees, wax moths, attack a variety of hive products. Although they do not feed on blocks of pure beeswax or candles, they will wreak havoc on frames and destroy beeswax comb left unattended by bees in a weak or dead hive or in storage.

The two species of wax moths include the greater wax moth , *Galleria mellonella*, and the lesser wax moth, *Achroia grisella*. Of these, the greater wax moth is the biggest threat to hives. Both species follow similar life cycles and it is the larval stage that is most bothersome. The first stage of the moth life cycle is the eggs. A female wax moth lays eggs immediately after mating and continues for about five days. She can lay up to 600 eggs in the cracks between hive boxes or on the edges of frames. The temperature determines the number of eggs she lays and the rate at which they hatch. At about 85°F it only takes three to five days while at 65°F it can take up to 35 days for the eggs to hatch. Once they do, the larvae chew through the comb of the hive, feeding on cocoons, cast skins and pollen. As they burrow, wax moth larvae leave a silken web lined tunnel, feces and other debris in their wake. After 20 days in warmer temperatures or 5 months in cooler ones, the larva will chew a cavity into wooden equipment and form a cocoon. The pupal stage lasts three to eight days in warmer conditions and upwards of two months in cooler temperatures. The life cycle concludes with adult moths. Females live about twelve days while males live up to 21 days. Interestingly adult moths do not feed during this stage.

Maintaining strong, healthy hives is the best defense against wax moths. Strong hives can defend their homes while weaker colonies cannot. Storage of honey supers, brood combs and comb honey can take place in a freezer or exposed to light twenty four hours a day.

Beekeepers can also use the wax moths' temperature dependence to their advantage. Extended temperatures below 19°F or above 115°F will kill all stages of the wax moth cycle. If 115° cannot be maintained for three hours the use of lower temperatures is suggested as beeswax becomes structurally unsound at 122° and melts at about 143°. Treatment exposure timing should not begin until the specific temperature has been reached.

Another form of moth control is treating extracting supers with Paradichlorobenzene commonly sold as Para-Moth. To use this method, stack the extracted supers on top of each other tightly. Then place 3 ounces of Para-Moth crystals on a square of newspaper or paper plate on the top of the stack. Cover the stack with an empty super and a telescoping cover, making sure the stack is airtight. Check every three weeks to keep crystals on the top. Supers must be aired out before placing back on the hives. Never use regular moth balls.

Finally, a beekeeper can use Certan, a biological insecticide to prevent wax moth damage in stored supers and colonies. It is a suspension of spores of the naturally occurring soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringuensis* subspecies *aizawai* . Certan was

registered in the United States and sold under the commercial name B401. Registration has since expired. Beekeepers are currently working to get Xen Tari brand *Bacillus thuringuensis* subspecies *aizawai*, which is available in the United States, labeled for this use. To apply this control a beekeeper mixes the powder with water and sprays both sides of each frame. This can be done in the fall before storage or before placing the combs into the hives in the spring. The mixture is effective against wax moth larvae because the spores germinate in the gut producing a lethal toxin that kills the wax moth larva. *Bacillus thuringuensis* subspecies *aizawai* is non-toxic and does not harm bees or contaminate the honey or wax.

Wax moths are a constant threat to honey bees and beekeepers due to their destructive ways when the temperature is above 40°F. Learning to avoid infestation and minimize their damage should be on every beekeepers list of priorities.

Resources:

Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium (2015). *Wax Moth* MAAREC website. Retrieved May 28, 2015 from https://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/honey-bee-biology/honey-bee-parasites-pests-predators-and-diseases/pests-of-honey-bees/nggallery/image/67

Ohio Dept of Agriculture. Pests of Honey Bees Fact Sheet. Retrieved May 28 from http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/apiary/Docs/Apiary_Docs_FactSheets.pdf

The Pennsylvania State University. (2011). *A Field Guide to Honey Bees and Their Maladies*. University Park, PA.

Plant Health Australia. (2014). *Wax Moth*. Bee Aware website. Retrieved May 28, 2015 from http://beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/wax-moth-18/#ad-image-3

Scott-Dupree, C. (Editorial Chair). (2000). *Honey Bee Diseases & Pests*. Guelph, Ontario: Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists.

Bee-worthy Blooms

A sampling of June blooming trees and plants that honey bees use as nectar (N) and/or pollen (P) sources.

Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*): N & P Pollen pellets are creamy white

Rose (*Rosa* spp.): P Pollen pellets are dark yellow.

Sumac (*Rhus glabra*): N & P Pollen pellets are yellowish-brown.

White Dutch Clover (*Trifolium repens*): N & P A major source of both pollen and nectar. Pollen pellets are greenish-brown.

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*.): N & P A major source of both pollen and nectar. Pollen pellets are yellow.

Resources:

Lindtner, Peter. (2014). *Garden Plants for Honey Bees*. Kalamazoo, MI: Wicwas Press.

Tew, James E. *Some Ohio Nectar and Pollen Producing Plants*, Fact Sheet HYG-2168-98. Wooster, OH: Ohio State University Extension.

Association T-Shirt Orders

This year's shirts are ash (grey) with black emblems on the back. If you are interested in ordering shirts please see Andrea Deafenbaugh or call her at (330) 457-0326 . The deadline for orders and payment is Sunday, July 19. Prices are as follows:

Polo Shirts (up to XL)	$10.75
T-Shirt (up to XL)	$7.25
Each additional X in size adds an additional $1.	
Embroidered name and skep on front of either style of shirt	Additional $4

Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers' Association Website

http://www.columbianamahoningbeekeepers.org/

Cuteness Counts

When it comes to honey labeling there are some basic requirements that we all have to meet. Stepping beyond those requirements offers us a chance to make our honey stand out from the varieties on the shelf at the local discount store.

Basic labeling requirements are pretty straight forward. The word "honey" must be visible on the label. Putting the floral source is optional. The name and address of the business or beekeeper has to be clearly stated. The net weight of the product (excluding packaging) must be included on the lower third of the label in easy to read type. As long as 75% of a beekeeper's honey is from his/her own apiary, a nutrition label is not needed. Barb Bloetscher prepared a fantastic question and answer resource about honey production and sales in Ohio.

You and your bees have worked hard to offer your honey so why not go beyond the basic labeling requirements and add a little pizzazz to your packaging. A little extra effort will catch the attention of potential customers and show that you value your honey. Small additions can cost very little but have big returns in repeat sales.

An easy way to dress up a basic honey bear bottle is to add a ribbon or twine tie around its neck with a cardstock tag. The colors and tag can be specific for seasons, holidays or events or kept very general with a word such as "sweet". Paper punches and rubber stamps are available at craft stores and online and make creating tags a quick task.

Glass classic jars are given the royal treatment with a small piece of fabric to cover the lid. Like tags, the fabric can be specific to holidays, seasons or events and of course bees. There is always a wide variety of options at the fabric store and watching for sales and clearance markdowns makes this added touch even more affordable.

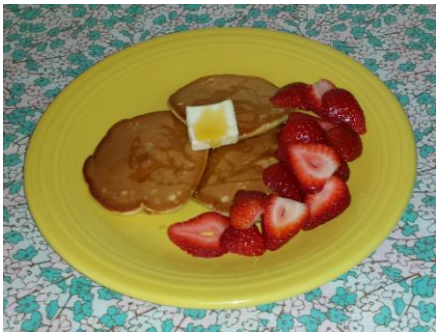
If you put your honey in a bag for the customer, try finding print bags or stamping a bee or your apiary logo on kraft bags. This can be done if you're selling honey from home, at a farmer's market or another outlet. It adds a finishing touch.

The possibilities are endless. Add a couple jingle bells around the holiday season, make tiny witch's hats for your bears in October or design custom labels. The point is we all have customers that buy our honey for the honey itself. They don't mind how it's packaged because they know it's a great product but there is a whole other group of people looking for something unusual or special. Our honey ***is*** unusual and special. We just need to show them.

Infants and Honey

Honey may contain *Clostridium botulinum* spores that cause infant botulism. This is a serious but rare disease that affects the nervous system of young babies under a year old. *C. botulinum* spores are present in the environment in dust, soil and improperly canned foods. Adults and children over a year old are exposed to the spores routinely but are not normally affected by them. The concern for infants under a year old is that the spores can germinate in their immature gastrointestinal tracts and begin producing botulinum toxin. Honey should not be given to infants under a year old.

Resource: National Honey Board



Honey Apple Pancakes

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 cup apple juice
- 1 apple, shredded or finely chopped
- 2 cups flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 2 teaspoons baking powder

Instructions:

1. In a large bowl combine all the ingredients except the apple.
2. When well mixed, stir in the chopped apple.
3. Lightly grease a griddle or large frying pan.
4. Dollop quarter cup sized to make the cakes.
   It's best to start at the medium low heat and increase the heat as needed.
5. Flip the pancakes when bubbles begin to appear.
6. Serve with maple syrup or honey.

Recipe courtesy of Mr. Breakfast

2015 Officers

President	Bruce Deafenbaugh	330-457-0326
V.President	Chuck Hatch	330-807-0848
Secretary	Heidi Schmidbauer	330-386-7763
Treasurer	Sandra Hays	330-921-5805
Board:	Don Hays (2015)	330-921-1012
	George Stacy (2016)	330-360-8717
	Joe Schmidbauer (2017)	330-386-7763

2015 Ohio Queen Producers

The following Queen and Honey Bee Producers have generously supplied our association with queen certificates for door prizes. Please show your appreciation when doing business with them.

Williams Honey Bees
Frankfort, Ohio
740-998-4380
Check out the Williams' Etsy Shop Also!

Mike's Bees and Honey
Forest, Ohio
419-365-9902

Special thanks to our generous suppliers who have provided us with catalogs, donations and door prizes. It means a lot to these folks to hear back from you, so be sure to mention our association when doing business with them:

2015 Supporters

A.I. Root- Bee Culture
Basco Inc.
B & B Honey Farm
Beeline Woodenware
Betterbee
Bee Smart Designs
Blue Sky Bee Supply
Brushy Mountain
Carbolineuam Wood Preserving
Country Rube's Farm
Cowen Mfg. Inc.
Dadant - American Bee Journal
Dakota Gunness
Draper's Super Bee Apiaries
Ernst Seeds
Gardner's Apiaries
Golden Bee Products
H & R Apiaries
Heartwood Lumber
Honey Bee Ware
International Mating Nuc Inc
Kelley Beekeeping
Koehnan & Sons Inc.
Miller Bee Supply
Plastic Packaging Concepts
Queen Right Colonies
Rossman Apiaries
Valley Bee Supply
Western Bee Supplies
Wicwas Press

Click on the company name to visit their web site.

Article or recipe suggestions and submissions are accepted and appreciated. Please provide them by the second of each month.

Heidi Schmidbauer
870 Center Road
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920
(330)386-7763
hschmidbauer@columbianamahoningbeekeepers.org