



The Skep

May 2020

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

President's Corner

I hope and pray this finds all of our members in good health and spirits during these chaotic times. It seems that life may be starting to return to normal.

I have been getting a number of requests by new (or interested) beekeepers for a mentor. With the lockdown, mentorship would be difficult especially with a new person. I have been directing them to our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2605625412816168/> Thanks to those of our group whom have been active in replies to our newbies. This is a great platform to stay in touch, to share, and to learn. I encourage everyone to use this resource even if you don't post.

Swarms have been very active and early this year – they haven't gotten the stay at home order. Just yesterday, a friend told me she was doing a split and had an adjacent hive swarm on her. Another 5 minutes and she would have been working on it. Our swarm list has been updated on the website.

Take care and hope to see you soon.

Ralph Rupert

May 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~~

~~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:

Next Meeting: To be determined

Meeting Highlights:

There was no monthly meeting in April.

This Month/Next Month in Beekeeping:

May

May comes to us from an old calendar published by Master Beekeeper David Burns in 2007. You can read the whole calendar here. <http://basicbeekeeping.blogspot.com/2007/12/beekeepers-calendar-of-important-events.html>. Bees are in full operation now that it is May. You can stop feeding strong hives now because they are bringing in lots of nectar and pollen. You should put on honey supers in May. Put on as many as you'd like. The hive is expanding rapidly. The brood chambers are filling up fast and becoming crowded and congested.

And with congestion comes swarming. Mr. Burns has an excellent article on Swarm Capture and Prevention.

<http://basicbeekeeping.blogspot.com/2007/11/lesson-fourteen-swarm-capture.html>

June

The bees will be working hard filling supers. They can still swarm during June, so keep an eye out for swarms. There is no need to feed the bees. They are gathering plenty of nectar and pollen. Continue to monitor your hive, inspecting the hive every two weeks to ensure the queen is laying well. The bees will need water, so be sure to keep a water source near your hives.

Bees in the News:

<https://www.timesrepublican.com/news/todays-news/2020/04/honey-bees-could-bee-iowas-state-insect/>

Iowa is in the process of becoming the 18th state to establish the honey bee as its state insect.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/04/200428142353.htm>

Researchers at Penn State did a study on rooftop apiaries in Philadelphia to see what plants the honey bees were using in urban environments. Weight patterns and the DNA of pollen were collected to determine the most used nectar and pollen sources. Trees, shrub and vines including ornamentals were the most used flowers.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/deadly-virus-turns-honey-bees-trojan-horses#>

Scientists are learning that while honey bees avoid contact with other bees with Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV), the guard bees are often deceived by chemical signals and are letting infected bees into the hive.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/2020/05/02/us/asian-giant-hornet-washington.amp.html>

The Asian giant hornet has recently been reported in the U.S. (Washington State) and Canada (British Columbia). It's called the "murder hornet" because it kills honey bees and other insects by decapitating them and feeding their bodies to its young. Some say they are capable of decimating hives. It packs a serious sting and can penetrate a bee suit. Its venom can kill a human if stung multiple times. Entomologists, biologists and beekeepers are trying to stay ahead of the invasion by destroying colonies and tracking them with heat sensors.

<https://www.sciencealert.com/here-s-what-you-really-need-to-know-about-those-murder-hornets>

For additional viewpoints see this article.



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Members Corner:

As Ralph said the bees have not gotten the stay at home order...

Don Kovach sent this picture of a swarm he collected along the edge of Millcreek Park.



Mike Ferreri had a hive swarm. This picture is of the bees returning to the hive after they had swarmed out of it. It's not really known why they did this but I witnessed the same type of activity last year.

Amy and I got a call from a friend that there was a swarm of bees on the house next door. We went over and there were bees all over the down spout. These bees came out of a tree in front of the house. This was at least the second swarm from that tree. Another club member got the first swarm about 2 weeks before.



Using the simple hand scoop method I moved the bees to the swarm box. In the first couple of scoops I got the queen (unknowingly of course). Once I saw her, I put her between 2 frames to keep her safe and closed the lid. From there I just kept scooping and putting them in front of the entrance. Eventually they all walked in the door.



That made for a good day, but as we were getting ready to leave swarm number 2 came out of the tree. We went home to get another box and head back to their house. The first swarm was approximately 6+ lbs of bees and the second was around 3 lbs.



Luckily my second swarm box is based on a 5 frame nuc. With this one, getting the queen was a little uncertain. I assumed it went into the hive when I shook them off the branch. The bees that did not get put in the hive from the branch eventually walked in on their own accord. What was strange was, while trying to gather the stragglers, what was clearly a queen landed on the frame in front of the hive. I promptly escorted her into the hive and closed the lid. I am not sure if that was just a random queen that decided to land on the empty frame. She was distinctly dark in color so it should be easy to tell when we do an inspection.



Then the task was to get home and put them both in their new homes before dark.



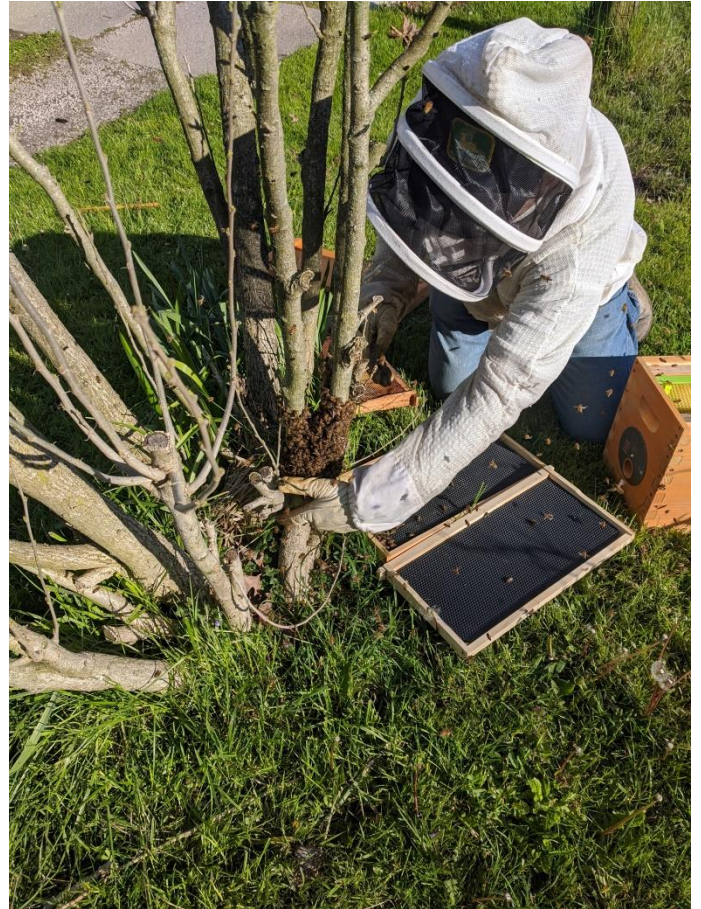
Wednesday afternoon we got another call from our same friend. The bees were swarming again. So we gathered equipment and headed out the door.

We got to her house and the swarm was in the same bush as before but on the opposite side. Compared to the last 2 swarms this one was even smaller. Retrieving this swarm was not as easy. I did find the queen right way but she flew off as I was trying to get her caged. Note to self: if the queen is in your hands put her in the box. Sometime in the future I really must work on my queen capturing skills.



We kept looking for the queen in the swarm and kept scooping bees into the box. Once a few voluntarily flew in I closed the lid. From there I scooped them onto the frame in front of the box. They went in but we did not see the queen again.

The hard part of this swarm was the tangled mess of limbs from the bush. We would scoop from one side and they would move to the other.



When we finally got almost all of them, I saw what looked like a queen lying in the grass. Sadly, she was clearly dead. We looked her over and she looked like the one I had in my hand. I placed her in the box for no known reason. I was rather remorseful that I had just killed the queen although how I did it was a mystery.

We took the bees home and kept them in the box overnight. It was dark by the time we actually could have put them in a hive.

Overnight I struggled with what to do with this hive. Should it be combined with a hive? How should it be combined? The decision was to just put them into a nuc and take a frame of eggs from another hive and let them raise their own queen.

In the morning when the temperature reached 50 degrees (cooler than we would like) we moved them into a nuc.



Looking on the outside of the frame we found what looked like a queen. It was a welcomed surprise. The nuc box has a fame of drawn comb so we should see eggs and larva in a few days.

If there aren't any eggs within that time frame, they will get a frame to build a queen.

By now we figure this tree is about swarmed out.

Monthly Honey Recipe:

SLOW-COOKER HONEY GRANOLA

This is 1 of 2 recipes shared by CMCBA member Kelly Davis. Kelly says, “I’ve made both!! Yummy!” Kelly loves to cook for her family and even for our monthly pot-luck lunch. You all are sure to enjoy these two recipes!



Photo by Taste of Home

Ingredients:

4 cups old-fashioned oats
1 cup sunflower kernels
1 cup sweetened shredded coconut
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup canola oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
1 cup chopped dried pineapple
1 cup chopped dried mangoes

Directions:

1. In a 3-quart slow cooker, combine oats, sunflower kernels, coconut, and salt.
2. In a small bowl, whisk oil and honey until blended. Stir into oat mixture.
3. Cook, covered, on high 2 hours, stirring well every 20 minutes.
4. Remove granola to baking sheets, spreading evenly; cool completely. Stir in pineapple and mangoes.
5. Store in airtight containers.

References:

Cupp, Arisa. “Slow-Cooker Honey Granola.” *Taste of Home*. RDA Enthusiast Brands, LLC. 2020.

CHEWY HONEY GRANOLA BARS

Here is recipe #2 shared by CMCBA member Kelly Davis.

You can change up the fruits to go with seasons or your likes.

Makes for great healthy snack. Which recipe will you try 1 or 2, or maybe both?

☺ Miss you all!



Photo by Taste of Home

Ingredients:

3 cups old -fashioned oats
2 cups unsweetened puffed wheat cereal
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/3 cup chopped walnuts
1/3 cup raisins
1/3 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup honey
1/4 cup melted butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. In a large bowl, combine the first 8 ingredients.
3. In a small bowl, combine honey, butter, and vanilla; pour over oat mixture and mix well. (Mixture will be sticky).
4. With cooking spray coat a 9 x 13-in baking pan.
5. Press mixture into baking pan.
6. Bake 14-18 minutes or until set and edges are lightly browned.
7. Cool on a wire rack. Cut into bars.

References:

Lehman, Tasha. "Chewy Honey Granola Bars." *Taste of Home*. RDA Enthusiast Brands, LLC. 2020.

Spring has Sprung

Word search

M	Q	Y	E	W	S	P	J	A	S	C	N	B	A	O	P	U
S	W	T	R	G	P	R	X	N	S	U	I	I	H	U	U	V
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trees bird feeders pollen sugar syrup nucs pollinators
dandelions butterflies flowers gardens swarms honey bees

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