



# The Skep

May 2022

Columbiana & Mahoning Beekeepers' Association Newsletter

## President's Corner

Hello Fellow Beekeepers,

Last meeting, Mike Klem shows us how to make a walk away split. Try to prevent swarming by looking for queen cells to make split and increase hive numbers. By making a split will break brood cycle. That way there is no where varroa mite to mature in cells, but if you treated bees. When done add supers as needed.

Bob the Bee Man told us different ways to catch them.

Don't forget to register your hives by June 1<sup>st</sup> it is the law \$5.00 per location. It is a good program to get your bees inspected by John Berhart, the county bee inspector.

-Bruce D.

## April Meeting Information:

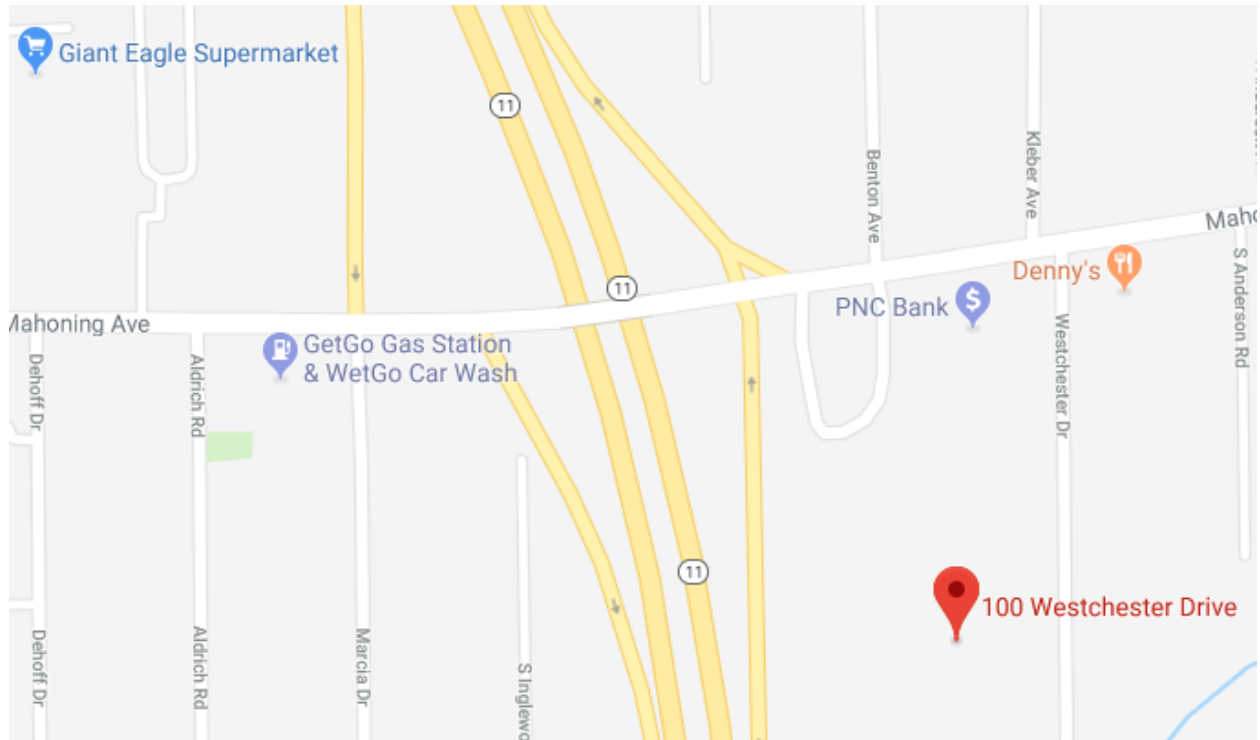
Meeting Date: 5/15/2022,  
Monthly Membership Meeting and  
Luncheon

[Austintown Senior Center](#)  
[100 Westchester Drive](#)  
[Suite 110](#)  
[Austintown, Ohio 44515](#)

Potluck Lunch at 1 pm  
Membership meeting at 2 pm

Guest Speaker: Mystery speaker

Next Meeting: 6/19/2022



## Meeting Highlights:

- New members and announcements
- Mike Klem demonstrated a walk away split.
- Bob the Bee Man provided instructions for swarm retrieval
- Seed packets were given away to promote this year's theme, "If you plant it they will come"
- Fair will have educational games and prizes for kids.

## This Month/Next Month in Beekeeping:

May: Check for queen cells and brood diseases  
Manipulate hives for swarm prevention and make splits  
Replace poor brood frames and add honey supers as needed  
Provide ventilation and afternoon shade

June: Check for queen cells and brood diseases  
Manipulate hives for swarm prevention  
Provide excess honey super space  
Last chance to make splits  
Extract spring honey if desired

## **Announcements:**

- Pen State offering grand for beekeepers who are doing artificial insemination of queens.
- Field Day at Bruce's house this Saturday 11:00 AM Bring covered dish and learn about what to do with hives during spring. Address 1305 Beard Rd New Waterford OH 44445
- Looking for members to set up and teardown for meetings
- Shirts: Color is sport grey for both Golf style and t-shirts.
  - T-shirts logo on front only, XL and smaller are \$10.00 XXL and greater \$2.00 more per size increment.
  - Golf shirts XL and smaller are \$15.00 XXL and greater \$2.00 more per size increment.
  - July meeting is the deadline for order and payment.

## **Comb Honey Basics:**

Even with a cool start with spring, summer is right around the corner. The work does not stop with summer this includes: adding supers for comb honey production, managing the hives, and harvesting the crop.

Splits should have been made and packages installed in April, weather conditions may have resulted in a comb honey hives not being as strong as over wintered hives. If this happens there are two easy methods to take advantage of the new queens while boosting her hive strength.

One is to find the queen in the strong overwintered hive. It is not desirable to use an overwintered queen to produce comb honey as it is far more likely she will lead a swarm than a current year queen. If you can find the queen in a strong overwintered hive, remove her and the frame she is on, plus two or four additional frames with bees. You should take a total of at least three frames, plus one or two more if you judge that the replacement frames will have more brood than the brood than you are taking. In other words, you want the hive with the new queen to have a maximum amount of brood. Put those frames aside.

Then go into the hive with the current year queen and remove an equal amount of frames, being certain that the queen is on one of them. Use these frames to replace the frames you removed from the overwintered hive. No need to do anything special to get the overwintered bees to accept the new queen. The presence of her attendant bees will assure that she will be readily accepted. Then put the frames taken out of the overwintered hive into the hive originally designated for comb honey.

This accomplishes giving the new queen her brood, and attendants the benefit of a much larger number of foragers in the overwintered hive, making the hive stronger.

The disadvantage of this method of producing a stronger hive is that the queen in the overwintered hive must be found, and in late May that can easily take 30 minutes or more. The alternative is to find a hive with a new queen in another yard, close up the hive in the evening and then or the next morning take the closed hive to the location with the strong overwintered hive. Place the strong overwintered hive in a different location of the yard as long as it is over three feet from where it was. Now open the entrance to the comb honey hive and the foragers from the stronger hive will readily enter it therefore doubling the bee population.

## AVOCADO STRAWBERRY SPINACH SALAD WITH HONEY BALSAMIC DRESSING

With the coming season of fresh spinach/strawberries “yum” And the desire to eat healthier “awesome”. Of -course we love to use our Honey “gold goodness” when and where we can and share honey recipes and its goodness. You can replace or substitute ingredients to fit your needs. The idea is “Bee Inspired”. This recipe comes from [Honey.com](http://Honey.com)



Picture by: Bee nad strawberry stock vector. Illustration of icon - 18243348 (dreamstime.com)

### Ingredients:

8 ounce baby spinach  
16 ounce sliced strawberries  
2 cubed avocados  
1/3 cup chopped walnuts  
1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese

For the Dressing:

1/3 cup balsamic vinegar  
1/4 cup honey  
2 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

### Directions:

Toss together the spinach, strawberries, avocados, walnuts, and feta in bowl.

In a separate bowl, whisk the dressing ingredients together.

Drizzle dressing over the greens right before eating.

Makes 6 servings.

If you have any dressing left-over you can store in air-tight container for 3-4 days. Canning jar or glass jar with lid works well.

### The Library Corner

Here is what's been happening in the Club Library:

Lots of good educational materials/demos being shared from the Club Library. February- we've had Pro-Sweet and why it is an ideal product to keep on hand. March- how there is such a diversity of plants and an equally diverse range of pollinators. The importance of keeping a bloom time chart. Seeds for everyone were shared. April- vintage smoker and laminated pages from a 1976 Bee Journal were shared, along with the importance of quality fuel, the right fuels/wrong fuels for your smoker.

Lol, I wonder what we'll have for the month of May. Club Librarian Dorothy Sabol

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