The Skep

Columbiana & Mahoning County Beekeepers Association Volume 6 Issue 9 September 2014

President's Corner

Hello Beekeepers!

Thank you everybody for helping set up and tear down the fair booth. Thank you for all of the entries. I did not think this would be a productive year because of the long winter and wet spring. Then all of you did an awesome job presenting the hard work that you and your bees have accomplished. Thank you to all of the members for working at the booth. Informing the public about beekeeping or wanting to be a beekeeper. Seeing the smile on someone's face when they try a honey stick. Helping the public learn about honey bees by looking at the observation hive. These are the reasons we are #2 in the state of Ohio. This is how we keep the fair board happy and the local public informed. Great work everybody!

This coming month we will need to decorate the tables for the fall banquet. If you would like to help please let us know.

If you are interested in running for an office call Edwynna Stacy. She is in charge of the nominating committee.

Your dues for 2015 are due at the banquet. If there are any changes in your address, email address, phone number or name please make them at that time for the new membership roster. Look for your membership renewal form with the October edition of The Skep.

Make sure your bees have enough honey to survive the winter. It will "bee" here before we know it. Healthy bees are happy bees.

Bruce Deafenbaugh

Did you know?

The average worker honey bee flies an average of 15 miles an hour. Her little wings must flap about 230 times each second to keep her aloft .

September Meeting Details

Sunday, Sept. 21
Potluck Lunch 1:00 p.m.
Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Nick Deemer's Home
11540 Rapp Rd.
New Middletown, Oh 44442

From Rt 7 South turn left onto OH 165E/E South Range Rd for 2.2 miles. Turn left onto Springfield Rd for 469 feet. Take the 1st right onto E South Range Road for 3.5 miles. Make a slight left onto Columbiana Rd/New Castle Rd for .6 miles. Take the second left onto Rapp Rd for .2 miles. The driveway is on the left.

From Rt 7 North turn right onto OH 165E/E South Range Rd and follow the directions above from this point.

Know Your Bees

Knowing the different breeds of honey bees is a valuable tool to help any beekeeper make decisions in managing their hives. In order to be effective in our decisions we need to be armed with information. Information that is correct, concise and current. In the following paragraphs we will explore the numerous breeds or stocks of honey bees that exist in North America. Knowing a little bit about these subspecies and their characteristics can help you select bees that will work well in your apiary as well as help you answer questions about honey bees and take part in conversations with other beekeepers.

All honey bees kept by beekeepers in the United States are European or Western honey bees, *Apis Melefera,* but there are many subspecies . The most popular is the

Italian Bee, *Apis mellifera ligustica*. Italian bees are brown with golden yellow bands. This favorite bee is characterized by its gentle nature and tendency to produce and maintain large amounts of brood. The large number of bees in a colony generally produce a good honey crop in a short period of time. As prolific egg layers, Italian bees' brood rearing is not dependent on the available food supply. This can be problematic during times of dearth and through the winter months when the nectar source is scarce and there is still a large brood population to feed. Italian honey bees are frequent drifters and as kleptoparasites, will rob the honey stores of weaker or dead colonies. These behaviors may be detrimental to beekeepers who work hives during times of dearth and they can rapidly spread diseases and parasites throughout the apiary. Although Italians have a strong tendency to rob other hives, these honey bees are quiet and gentle on the combs and are considered good housekeepers. They create brilliant white cappings on straight neat combs with minimal propolis, making them ideal for producing comb honey.

The Carniolan bee, *Apis mellifera carnica*, is another favorite honey bee subspecies in the United States. These honey bees are dark in appearance with brown spots or bands allowing them to forage at lower temperatures and in less favorable climatic conditions than their blond counterparts. As a docile bee that is not easily annoyed, Carniolans can be worked with little smoke or protective gear. Overwintering a small cluster helps these bees conserve food stores. In the spring, Carniolans build up quickly making it easier to take advantage of the early nectar flow. This rapid build-up also makes Carniolans prone to swarming. Beekeepers must be vigilant to ensure that these honey bees have enough room throughout the nectar flow season to avoid the loss of honey that accompanies a swarm. Carniolan bees are not inclined to robbing and have a good sense of orientation keeping drifting and the transmission of diseases to a minimum throughout the apiary. This subspecies of honey bees uses small amounts of propolis and are very good builders of wax combs but are considered less productive than Italians by many beekeepers.

Caucasian honey bees, *Apis mellifera caucasica*, are similar to Carniolan honey bees in color and temperament. This gentle bee is dark in color with grey bands and can forage in cool and wet areas. The most notable trait of this subspecies is an extremely long tongue that enables these bees to pollinate and gather nectar from flowers, such as red clover, that other subspecies do not have access to. Another fascinating trait of Caucasian

honey bees is their natural cohabitation of queens. In this subspecies it is more likely to find double queens within a hive. Caucasian bees are susceptible to nosema and inclined to drifting and robbing, making them less suitable to over wintering in northern climates. These honey bees are less likely to swarm as they are slow to build up their colonies and do not reach full strength until mid-summer. Using a large amount of propolis, Caucasian honey bees glue the cracks and joints of their hives together. This may make hive manipulation more difficult for the beekeeper.

There are many hybrid strains of honey bees produced also. Buckfast bees are a hybrid strain developed largely from Italian stock by Brother Adam at Buckfast Abbey in England. They have been shown to be more resistant to tracheal mites and are better suited to cool damp climates. Buckfast bees are excellent honey produces and have a rapid spring build up while maintaining a low tendency to swarm. The downside to this hybrid is that they are prone to rob nearby hives and are quite defensive. If left unmanaged for one or two generations this bee will become fiercely defensive making hive manipulation grueling for the beekeeper.

One of the newer hybrid honey bees is the Russian Bee. These bees were imported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Laboratory in Louisiana. Russian bees are dark with more grey than other similar looking bees and show exceptional winter hardiness. The tendency to only rear brood during nectar flows and their good housekeeping traits result in the resistance to varroa and tracheal mites. Russian honey bees almost always have queen cells in their hives. They perform better when not in the presence of other subspecies of honey bees as cross-contamination from susceptible stocks can lessen the varroa resistance of these honey bees.

A large number of other hybrid strains have been developed for parasite and disease resistance or for traits suitable for northern climates, including the Buckeye strain from Ohio, the Minnesota hygienic strain and the Midnight bee. Knowing the different subspecies of honey bees and their general characteristics is a valuable tool to help beekeepers select their stock and make decisions in managing their hives. Armed with this information you can set your apiary goals and successfully work toward them.*

Resources:

Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium Website. Selecting the Right Type of Bee. Retrieved August 18, 2014, from https://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/beginning-beekeeping-2/selecting-the-right-type-of-bee/

NC State Apiculture Program Number 1.12 (June 30, 2014). The Different Types of Honey Bees. North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. Retrieved August 18, 2014, from http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/apiculture/pdfs/1.12%20copy.pdf

Weber, Bryant (February, 2012). Breeds and Varieties of the Western Honey Bee. The Wasatch Beekeepers Association Website. Retrieved August 29, 2014, from http://www.wasatchbeekeepers.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Honey_bee.pdf

Flottum, K., Harman, A., & Shimanuki, H. (2007). *The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture* (41st ed.). Medina, OH: The A.I. Root Company

2014 Fair Entry Display

Well Done Everyone!

Characteristics of Honey Bees Races At A Glance

Race	Italian	Carniolan	Caucasian	Russian
Temperament	Very Gentle	Gentle	Very Gentle	Aggressive/defensive
Drifting/Robbing Behavior	Prone	Not Prone	Somewhat Prone	Not Prone
Over-Wintering	Large population requiring large food supply	Smaller population, efficient use of food stores, suited for cooler climates	Maintain and efficiently use good food stores	Overwinter well with small food stores
Swarming	Moderate	Excessive swarming	Low	High (always has queen cells ready)
Honey Production	Very good in good conditions	Good (Will forage in adverse conditions)	Fair to good (Will do well in adverse conditions)	Moderate to good
Propolis	Moderate	Little	Excessive (burr comb also)	Moderate
Climate Preference	Temperate or warm moist climate	Northern climate	Warm/humid & cold/damp climates	Warm/humid & cold/damp climates

Bug Day

Recently member Don Kovach volunteered to take the Ulster Style Observation Hive along with 5,000 honey bees and participate in Bug Day at the Mill Creek MetroParks Farm. The event included bug-themed crafts, games and exhibits for area families to enjoy. At the completion of the activities the children received their "Master of Bugology" certificates.

Bee-worthy Blooms

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

Aster

Buckwheat

Golden Rod

Asters: N & P
Autumn Joy: N & P
Anise hyssop: N
Buckwheat: N & P
Boneset (Snakeroot): N & P
Catmint: N
Chives: N & P
Golden Rod: N & P
Land In Blue: N & P
Lavender: N
Mints: N & P
Thistle: N & P
Tall Ironweed: N

Kathleen M. Prough. *Gardening for Honey Bees*. Indiana DNR, Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology Apiary News & Information Website. Retrieved June 29, 2014 from http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/files/ep-Gardening_for_Honey_Bees.pdf

Tew. James E.. *Some Ohio Nectar and Pollen Producing Plants*, Fact Sheet. The Ohio State University Ohioline Factsheets. Retrived June 29, 2014 from http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2168.html

2014 Canfield Fair

Thank you for the effort that all of you put forth preparing for, working during and cleaning up after the Canfield Fair! Thank you for taking the time to submit the beautiful entries that highlight our display and a special thank you to the Executive Committee members that spend countless additional hours to make this a successful event!



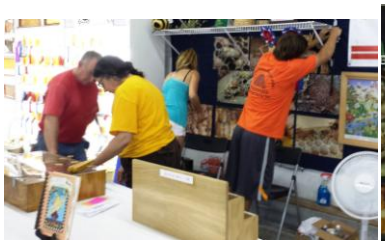

Bottling Honey & Counting Candy at the August Meeting




Setting Up the Booth




Educating and Offering Beeswax and Honey Products



Monday Night's Clean Up

2014 Officers

President	Bruce Deafenbaugh	330-457-0326
V.President	Chuck Hatch	330-807-0848
Secretary	Tresa Kurz-Hedrich	330-799-5432
Treasurer	Edwynna Stacy	330-549-5472
Board:	Don Hays	330-921-1012
	Don Kovach	330-272-3711
	George Stacy	330-360-8717

2014 Mentor List

Bill DeHoff	330 549-2984 C330 770-7223
Don Hays	330 921-1012
Don Kovach	330 272-3711
Floyd Marshall	330 821-0563
George Stacy	330 360-8717
Bob the Bee Man	330 501-8843

Pumpkin Honey Bread

Makes 2 delicious loaves

- 1 cup - honey
- 1/2 cup - butter or margarine, softened
- 1 can (16 oz.) - solid-pack pumpkin
- 4 - eggs
- 4 cups - flour
- 4 teaspoons - baking powder
- 2 teaspoons - ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons - ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon - baking soda
- 1 teaspoon - salt
- 1 teaspoon - ground nutmeg

In large bowl, cream honey with butter until light and fluffy. Stir in pumpkin. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until thoroughly incorporated. Sift together remaining ingredients. Stir into pumpkin mixture. Divide batter equally between two well-greased 9 x5 x 3-inch loaf pans. Bake at 350°F for 1 hour or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Let loaves cool in pans for 10 minutes; invert pans to remove loaves and allow to finish cooling on racks.

National Honey Board

Columbiana Mahoning County Beekeepers Association is online.
http://www.columbianamahoningbeekeepers.webs.com/

Special thanks to our generous suppliers who have provided us with catalogs 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:

American Bee Journal
A.I. Root - Bee Culture
B&B Honey Farm
Beeline Apiaries
Betterbee
Blue Sky
Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
C.F. Koehnen & Sons
Cowen
Dadant
Drapers
Glory Bee
Mann Lake
Miller Bee Supply
Mother Load Products
Pigeon Mtn. Trading Co.
Sailor Plastics

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

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