

The Skep

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

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UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- **Next Meeting:** January 19, 2025
1:00pm Potluck, 2:00 Meeting: Our speaker will be Brian Koper from Castle Hives
 - DUES will be \$15 for individuals and \$20 for family members, 18 or under still living at home.
 - We would like **LIBRARY BOOKS RETURNED FOR JANUARY'S MEETING**, PLEASE AND THANK YOU! You can check them out again or a different book perhaps.
 - Remember: Clean-up is the responsibility of every table. We need to spray and wipe with the material provided.
 - Dinnerware and drinks are provided at the meeting. Please bring something to share if you are able.
 - If you are able to come early (by 12:30, we can use your help setting the food and drink tables. Thank you!
 - See you at 1:00 for Potluck, and 2: for the meeting.
- **NEW Beekeepers enjoy Castle Hives videos with Brian Koper**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQHSkDuHFRA>

This page informs new beekeepers of videos, articles, etc.

"In the winter, the earth remembers the sun and the bees remember the flowers."

Unknown





A WORD FROM THE BOARD:

Happy New Year to our new and present bee keepers. We wish you a year of successful beekeeping. As your new board we are anxious to serve you as we bring our knowledge and the expert knowledge of good speakers to our club. We come with high goals, integrity of our funds, and with hospitality. All active members will vote on our new budget with Don Kovach, our club's treasurer.

Sincerely Your Board Members,

AJ Rehlinger (President)
Georgette Brier (Vice President)
Don Kovach (Treasurer)
Grimilda Ocasio (Secretary)
Bruce Deafenbaugh (Board)
Hector Colon (Board)
Dorothy Sabol (Board)
Skep Editors: Laurie Coy & Tom Dunlea

JUST TO PONDER

Winter means lots of hot cocoa, coffee, and tea. Did you know that Bees like caffeine? Certain plants such as coffee and citrus, produce caffeine as a natural defense mechanism against harmful insects..... interestingly, bees are attracted to caffeine-infused nectar which enhances their alertness and memory. Consider adding some to your watering areas for bees. I have added the leftover coffee from my cup. "Just saying and sharing."





Traveling Speaker Presentations being offered:

Please let Georgette Brier, our Vice President, know if any of these appeal to you.

- **All About Winter Bees** ~ discuss the importance of preparing your colonies in August so you have healthy, disease-free workers that will make it until April of the next season.
- **Apiary Diagnostics Kit** ~ how to use the tools of the trade to monitor colony health, marking queens, and with a special discount from Better Bee after the presentation.
- **Marketing your Honey** ~ create your honey marketing strategy to promote and sell your products in the market successfully.
- **Honeycomb Management** ~ learn how comb is made, used, and stored correctly in/outside the hive.
- **Chemical Treatments for Varroa Control** ~ why, when, and how to use chemical treatments correctly on honey bee colonies.
- **Successful Overwintering** ~ essential steps you can take to help your bees survive winter.
- **Sustainable Beekeeping: Using Nucs in the Apiary**
- **Sustainable Beekeeping: Queen Rearing for the Hobbyist Beekeeper**



HELP WANTED:

We are looking for education articles for February's SKEP: Tom and I will choose from the submissions based on the themes below. Please submit to: lauriecoy1@gmail.com
(must be completed in Word). This is your chance to write about your expertise.

Looking for Articles For February and March SKEP:

These are the topics you can address: Submit to Laurie Coy no later than Feb. 1, 2025

1. Fall and Winter management.
2. Feeding/ Bee Food/ Inspection, Equipment maintenance, Order package Bees, and Installing package Bees.
3. Spring management. How to Check for Honey and Pollen stores, Replacing and cleaning equipment, Swarm prevention, Establish new colonies, Inspect for diseases and mites.
4. Swarm Calls. What tools used to retrieve swarms, Safety, How to Reduce your own hives swarming.





HOW TO RENDER BEESWAX

Cleaning beeswax is messy business and something of a necessary evil. But how do you get from honeycomb to clean, pristine beeswax with a minimum of mess? If you are new to processing beeswax, here's a short guide to take you through all the steps along the way. There's a lot to it, so for a more detailed description visit my blog. Following these steps, you can transform beeswax from the hive into clean usable wax for candles, creams and more.

1. Before you begin, some cautions:

Protect surfaces and keep children and animals away.

Handle hot wax carefully and keep it away from naked flames.

Maintain a temperature around 70 degrees Celsius.

Use soft water for melting beeswax.

Get dedicated equipment for wax processing.

Focus solely on the task to avoid accidents.

Consider doing it outside the kitchen to avoid mess and inconvenience your family.

2. Separate different types of wax for different uses

Keep brood comb and cappings separate as they have different uses. Cappings wax is lighter and cleaner, great for creams and beeswax wraps. Brood comb wax works well in candles and wood- or leather conditioners. Both can be traded for foundation with suppliers.

3. First melt:

Use a steamer, solar extractor, or hot water to melt the wax. First melt will contain impurities and needs filtering. Solar and steam extractors work well for melting wax out of frames. Frames can then be cleaned and reused, while remaining cocoons or 'slum gum' are great fire starters.

Water heating method: Heat soft water with comb/cappings in a pot or heater. Strain the wax through muslin once it floats to the top. Leave the wax to harden slowly to allow impurities to settle at the bottom. scrape them off before second melt.

4. Second melt:

Melt the wax without water using a double boiler (or slow-cooker). Once molten, filter melted wax through fabric with a tight weave. You might want to double up on the fabric. Replace the fabric as needed (the tighter the weave the cleaner the wax, but it will clog up quicker and needs replacing) and pour the molten wax into another container.

5. Third and subsequent melts:

Repeat second melt, and keep at it until the wax is clean. Kitchen roll, surgical lint or horticultural fleece are good for filtering these later stages.

Enjoy the process and happy rendering! By Hanna's Bees



January's Recipe

CHRISTMAS HONEY CARAMELS

- 1 CUP LIQUID GOLD (HONEY)
- ¾ CUP HEAVY CREAM
- 1 ½ TEASPOON OF VANILLA
- 6 TABLESPOONS BUTTER
- 1 CANDY THERMOMETER
- 1 MEDIUM HEAVY-BOTTOMED PAN



HEAT AND MIX HONEY AND CREAM IN A HEAVY-BOTTOMED PAN ON MEDIUM HEAT. USING AN ACCURATE THERMOMETER HEAT TO 275 F. AS SOON AS THE HONEY/CREAM REACHES 275F. REMOVE FROM HEAT AND THEN THE VANILLA AND BUTTER SHOULD BE ADDED. STIR ALL OF THE INGREDIENTS TOGETHER WELL AND POUR INTO A BUTTERED GLASS CONTAINER. PLACE THE CARAMELS IN THE FRIDGE TO COOL.

THESE DO MAKE A GREAT WAY TO GIFT YOUR FAVORITE PEOPLE. YOUR HONEY IN A UNIQUE WAY. GIFT ANYTIME. MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH.

Recipe Kamon Reynolds YouTube. Submitted from Dorothy Sabol, CMCBA, The Beehive Kitchen. Enjoy!



Useful Information And Links

We have found some information that might appeal to you:

LATE JANUARY: BASIC BEE KEEPING CLASS

CiCi has offered to hold another class with enough interest.

Contact via email honeybee.pa@aol.com

Pass information to anyone you know who wants to start beekeeping, so they can inquire and get on CiCi's list.

NEW BEEKEEPERS visit Ohio State Beekeepers Association

<https://ohiostatebeekeepers.org/new-beekeeper-outreach/>

This page informs new beekeepers of videos, articles, etc.

DARL MANKS

[Daryl Manks Facebook](#) ·

Taking orders for nuc state inspected Italian or Carniolan \$165, Buckfast or Saskatraz \$185

Located in Southington Ohio if interested message me





Useful Information And Links (continued)

HARTVILLE HONEY:

<https://www.hartvillehoney.com/>

They will have wintered nucs for sale. Here are the two types of queens that they sell as well:

VSH-Italian

- VSH-Italian queen bees are bred exclusively from instrumentally inseminated VSH breeder queens, and are selected for mite resistance, gentleness and rapid spring buildup. VSH stands for Varroa Sensitive Hygiene, and is one of the keys to keeping healthy, mite-resistant colonies. The VSH trait was originated from USDA stock in Louisiana, and later developed commercially by a number of US commercial queen breeders.
- Bees exhibiting the VSH trait interfere with the reproduction of varroa mites by detecting and removing bee pupae that are infested with varroa mites. This VSH activity slows the spread of varroa, and keeps mite populations below damaging thresholds.
- Our mite counts in the fall of 2022 were near zero because of the VSH trait in these bees. We have also found that the VSH line overwinters well in Ohio and builds up fast in the spring for a great honey crop.
- Description of VSH-Italian stock, copyright Wildflower Meadows, Inc., used by permission.

Saskatraz Hybrid

- Saskatraz hybrids are produced by Olivarez Honey Bees using Saskatraz breeder queens constructed in Saskatchewan, Canada by Meadow Ridge Enterprises
- Saskatraz breeder queens are selected for honey production, wintering ability, temperament, tracheal mite resistance, varroa tolerance / resistance and brood diseases. The Saskatraz breeding program uses recurrent natural selection to select for varroa tolerance in productive colonies with good economic traits. The OHB Saskatraz Hybrid have been crossed high VSH lines to increase stability of the varroa tolerant trait.
- Bees exhibiting the VSH trait interfere with the reproduction of varroa mites by detecting and removing bee pupae that are infested with varroa mites. This VSH activity slows the spread of varroa, and keeps mite populations below damaging thresholds.
- We have found the Saskatraz bees overwinter well in Ohio, have great honey production and are the gentlest bees we have ever worked with.

NOTE:

These local sites have not been updated, but you can watch them for beekeeping classes.

<https://www.trumbullbeekeepers.org/>

<https://summitbeekeepers.com/2024-classes/>

THE TRI-COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SPRING WORKSHOP IN WOOSTER has not been announced, but usually is the first weekend in March. Stay tuned and be ready to register. Beginning bee-keepers can take classes.

See the [Blue Sky catalog](#) and read 44-45 where it lays everything out for the Seasons of Beekeeping: What to do in the Early Spring, Late Spring, Early Summer, Late Summer, Fall, and Winter.
