

The *Buzzword*

December 2008

A publication of the East Central Ohio Beekeeping Association (ECOBA) serving Fairfield, Licking, Muskingum and Perry Counties



November Elections

Elections were held at the November ECOBA meeting resulting in six offices being filled. Please extend your thanks and support to these “volunteers” who offer their time and energy to support beekeeping, the association, and its membership.

Elected officers were:

President - Roger Miller
Vice-President - Jim Mathews
Secretary - Connie Schalinske
Treasurer - Karen Crutcher

All the above offices are for a two-year term.

Trustees Elected were:

3 year term - Steve Shane
1 year term - Dan Riggs

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January 31st

MOVBA Expo
See page 5

March 6th, 7th

OSU/Tri-County
Beekeepers, Wooster, OH

Late March

SWOBA bee
school/meeting

*****NEXT MEETING*****

February 19th, 2009 6:30 p.m.
Dawes Aboretum Education Center

Meeting News **Dues Due In January**

Once again it is that time. Dues are still a very reasonable \$15 per year and are now always due in January. Dues not paid by March 31st will result in removal from the mailing list.

Mail Dues to:

East Central Ohio Beekeepers Assn.
P.O. Box 132
Pleasantville, OH 43148

Howard Siegrist announced that the OSU extension offices will be holding their “Small Farm College”. It is a nine-week course. Cost is \$125. For more information, contact your county extension office.

Reports by the Apiary Inspectors from Fairfield, Perry, and Muskingum counties had a common theme: Light stores, varroa mites. Stores were affected by the dry weather in summer. Mite populations may have been up due to treating too late in the season. Although light in stores, bee populations appeared good.

Dana McVay noted a program exists to donate a hive a bees to people in underdeveloped countries. For more information see www.heifer.org.

Thanks to Bill & Linda Huston for their leadership efforts coordinating the Fairfield County Fair booth. Congrats to Carmen Conrad for her “Best of Show” beeswax entry (photo p2). Other ECOBA ribbon winners included Carmen Conrad (even more), Dana McVay, Steve Shane,

(Fair News Continued on page 2)

Looking Ahead

By

Ron Hoopes, Past President

I have been sitting around considering the fact that I am no longer president of the East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association. I feel confident that the new leadership will continue the growth of our association.

A complete new board of directors will undoubtedly bring new ideas and new enthusiasm to our group.

Roger Miller, as president, will offer his own ideas and style of leadership. This is good for an association. That is the purpose of the establishment of term limits on our officers.

Jim Mathews, as vice president, is always ready to give support and will prove to be a fine leader also.

Connie Schalinske, as secretary, had asked to become more involved in ECOBA and is ready to serve the group.

Karen Crutcher, as treasurer, is ready to take on this position with enthusiasm and has been serving as our central person for emailing the group with any news issues. Karen once told me she loves to keep lists and will have our membership list completely up to date.

Steve Shane, three year trustee, is always there when called upon and will be an asset to the board of directors.

Dan Riggs, one year trustee, has volunteered for anything asked of him and will be an asset to ECOBA both now and into the future.

So, I feel good about passing my leadership role on to the new officers. ECOBA is one of the leading associations in Ohio and will remain in that position into the future.

Good Luck to all the new officers and let's all continue giving them the support I have received.

Ron

(Fair News Continued from page 1)

Anna Wolok, Bill & Linda Huston and Jim Agsten. Congrats to all for their fine entries and for making an impressive display at the Fairfield County Fair.

Earl James reported two students attended the youth bee school. Adult school interest was high and Ron Hoopes was expecting a large turn out for the February school. For information or to sign up, contact Roger



BEST OF SHOW - Carmen Conrad



ECOBA Fair Booth - Thanks Bill & Linda Huston and all those who manned the booth.

Miller (740) 862-2501 or Earl James (740) 452-1819.

Kim Flottum's column, "The Inner Cover" in the December issue of Bee Culture magazine is about the value of attending meetings. Many things can be learned at meetings. Keeping abreast of current issues affecting beekeeping is very important in these rapidly changing times. Issues like CCD, small hive beetles, Africanized bees, Nosema, and residues in wax and honey are just a few issues we need to keep current on. The larger meetings with workshops are an ideal place to learn topics of interest to you, keep current, and check out and

(Meetings Continued on page 5)

The President's Message

Fellow Beekeepers;

Depending on which beekeeping calendar you adhere to it is either the beginning of a new year or the end of the old.

The above statement is an example of the complexities of beekeeping. Which approach is correct? Does it really matter? What will we base our choice on?

Taking over the Presidents job is fairly daunting considering the abilities of my predecessor. Under Ron Hoopes ECOBA has grown into one of the premier clubs in the state. Under his guidance the membership has expanded greatly and those members are staying involved, not just paying dues. Several club members have been elected to positions in OSBA. Next time you see Ron, thank him for his efforts.

As they say don't fix it if it ain't broke but failure to go forward also means going backward so I propose that as a club we review our progress and renew our efforts.

We should seek out the inactive members and ones that pay dues but don't attend and reconnect with them, make them a part of this premier organization.

Let's retool the mentorship program and use it bring the new and old beekeepers together. We should consider expanding our educational programs to include courses for all levels of beekeepers not just the new ones. Maybe we could establish an on-line question and answer forum to aid in making those hard decisions we all face at times.

Before the next meeting, take time to review this past summer, write down any questions you have and just maybe someone will be of assistance.

Regardless of what year you are in I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your beekeeping friend:

Roger Miller, President ECOBA
740-862-2501, e-mail romamiller@earthlink.net



When Spring finally gets here again, or even on the mild days of late winter, be sure to provide your bees with a good source of water. Honey is thick for a reason: to preserve it for later use. It must be thinned again to be used as brood food which is why you often see bees in the early spring gathering moisture from puddles, birdbaths, or other sources in order to thin the stored honey to a feed consistency.

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OSBA QUEEN PROJECT

Fellow Beekeepers,

The upcoming year will be the 3rd year of the Queen Project sponsored by OSBA. It has had a very successful start and we hope to get even better this year.

The program will be fine tuned to offer a better product for all involved. The details will be available after the first of the year but you can read a copy of the Project manual on-line by going to the OSBA web site and clicking on the Queen Project button.

I would invite everyone to become involved in this program. The number of colonies you possess is not the requirement for participation but rather your desire to improve the health and well-being of the honeybee population in Ohio.

A vibrant queen-rearing project will stop our dependence on bees raised in the southern U.S. thus eliminating some of the concern over Africanized bees and other problems brought to us by beekeepers who are involved in commercial population. If you read the bee magazines, these issues are very apparent. By necessity this is the way they must operate but just maybe, by making this Project a success, we will not have to follow them over the proverbial cliff.

Sincerely yours,

Roger Miller
Coordinator, Heart of Ohio

e-mail romamiller@earthlink.net

From the Editor... I'm new at this...again. I used to edit the Lancaster Farmers' Market News a few years back. I find myself relearning many things, getting used to new things, and probably forgetting things I am supposed to know. If something is missing or just flubbed up, let me know. Better yet, if you have ideas for regular columns, have stories, beekeeping tips or ideas of your own, please share them (especially your best kept secrets!) with us. My own vision of the newsletter (as well as the website) is not only to share meeting news with those who are unable to attend, but to fill in the gaps between meetings and try to cover issues that can't be fully discussed in a two hour meeting. Let me know what you would like to see. For starters, email me some tricks or tips and how it helped (or hurt!) your bees. Articles as well as pictures (jpeg) are also welcome, preferably formatted for web display so they are not too large. I'm still on antiquated dial-up here. Thanks! Jim

OHIO QUEENS AND NUKES! ROGER'S HONEY- Roger Miller

I am taking orders for queens and nucleus hives. Place your order now! Nukes will be available the first week of May and continuing to be available until the end of July.

Queens will be available early May through August.

The time of availability for both will of course be dependant on weather conditions.

I will also supply basic equipment, deeps, mediums, screened bottom boards, inner covers and top covers at a competitive price. All wood products are made from premium grade lumber.

All nukes will be made available in cardboard nuke boxes but I would appreciate if you planned to bring your own equipment which will help to hold down costs.

Call or email me for pricing and/or to place an order.

Phone 740-862-2501 or e-mail romamiller@earthlink.net

A Different Way of Thinking

If at times you are looking at your bees and somehow you just can't match up what you see with what you read in books, you may be right! A basic foundation in beekeeping knowledge is essential, but sometimes when things assumed correct are "written in stone", we may be misled. If you have a sense of discovery (which is part of beekeeping I think), I encourage you to open your mind and read the work of Tennessee beekeeper Walt Wright. Many of his articles are in Bee Culture or available online. Let me know what you think.
Jim

(Meetings - Continued from page 2)

pick up some new equipment.

Two such meetings are in the near future. The first, in Parkersburg, W.V. is hosted by the Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers Assn. (MOVBA) and is on January 31st, at the West Virginia University – Parkersburg, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration cost is \$15.00, must be received by January 12th, and at the door \$20.00. Cost for children, aged 12 and under, is \$8.00. The keynote speaker will be Tammy Horn, Ph.D. Dr. Horn is a Senior Researcher at the Eastern Kentucky Environmental Research Institute in Richmond, Kentucky. She is currently partnering with the International Coal Group of Hazard and Eastern Kentucky University to bring more creativity to mine reclamation by reforesting areas with bee-friendly trees, and to encourage a beekeeping infrastructure among people in Hazard. *(editors note: I find this topic fascinating! In this case, she is planting sourwood trees in mine reclamation areas to eventually produce sourwood honey. We have similar areas in Ohio which may benefit from her research.)*

In addition to her keynote address, Dr. Horn will lead several classes centered around her books titled, “Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped A Nation”, as well as, “Piping Up: A History of Women and Bees.” For more information, please phone Teresa Wagoner at 304-375-4919, or 304-482-6401, or visit www.angelfire.com/nb/movba

The second meeting, is the OSU/TriCounty Beekeeping Workshop in Wooster. It is Friday & Saturday, March 6 & 7, 2009. More information should be in the journals this month. And that is a final point. If you do not currently subscribe to any journals, I highly recommend you do so. As a member of ECOBA and/or OSBA or EAS, you are eligible for a nice discount on the subscription price for both Bee Culture and the American Bee Journal. The last two years both magazines have had excellent and detailed information on honeybee nutrition, varroa mites, bee breeding, queen rearing, splits, nosema, and more. All this information is essential to make us better, more informed beekeepers, not only for our own bees, but so we can be better prepared to answer the multitude of questions new beekeepers have in their quest to learn about keeping bees.

Have a happy holiday season and blessed new year. May your families and bees fare well this winter. Stay warm! ——— Jim Agsten, editor

ECOBA CONTACT INFO

President - Roger Miller
740.862.2501
romamiller@earthlink.net

Vice-Pres - Jim Mathews
740.756.4542
jim.mathews1@gmail.com

Secretary - Connie Schalinske
614.237.0973
drexe3@att.net

Treasurer - Karen Crutcher
740.468.3306
crutch102895@verizon.net

Trustee - Steve Shane
740.323.3525

ECOBA CONTACT INFO

Trustee - Dan Riggs
740.385.7971
no-driggs@seovec.org

Trustee - Bill Huston
740.653.2005
whuston@columbus.rr.com

Buzzword - Jim Agsten
Buzzword@ohiohomestead.com
740.689.0628

ECOBA meets the third Thursday of every month from February through November. Meetings are held at the Dawe’s Arboretum Education Center at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Dawe’s Arboretum is located on S.R. 13 north of Interstate 70. Follow the signs to the education center.

Our Mission: To support beekeeping in the East Central Ohio Area (Fairfield, Licking, Muskingum, and Perry Counties), including providing our membership with educational opportunities, updates on current beekeeping information, and promote public awareness about the important benefits of beekeeping to our food supply.