

The Buzzword

Sept./Oct 2009

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

Outville Presbyterian VBS Students Help the Bees

Thirty-four students, from age 3 to 12, at the Outville Presbyterian Church, made the plight of the bees their project for their summer Vacation Bible School. Pastor Steve Merold guided his students with theme cards which related lessons about bees which we all can use in daily life. I thought it highly commendable that this years project was very forward thinking, local, and necessary. It is refreshing to know that the youth of today are concerned and educated about bees and beekeeping, a topic which concerns all of us and our food supply.

At the September meeting, Pastor Merold presented a check for \$169.62 to ECOBA president Roger Miller. A motion was made and passed to add the donation to the Vanfossen scholarship fund. This fund is to help new young beekeepers with the purchase of bees and equipment. See details on the ECOBA website. Perhaps one of the young students will take a further interest in the bees and beekeeping and apply for the scholarship! THANK YOU very much Pastor Merold and the Outville Presbyterian VBS!



Area & Regional Meetings & Events

OSBA Fall Meeting

Nov. 7th, 2009

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Tom Webster, KY State University
(see page 4 for OSBA meeting details)

OSBA Elections Nov. 7th

(see page 4 for OSBA meeting details)

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PHOTOS! Once again, ECOBA sponsored the photo contest at the Lithopolis Honeyfest. Congratulations to all the entries and thank you for your participation. As always, we hope the fine photos presented here will inspire beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike to keep their cameras handy for those once in a lifetime shots!

**1st Place, "We Three Bees", by Phyllis Stewart,
Gahanna, OH**



Thanks to Gary Blackford and crew for their efforts. By the way, Beeculture magazine has extended their deadline for the 2010 Calendar photos until October 15th. The theme is "All Things Honey". See www.beeculture.com for details. *More honeyfest photos on page 3.*

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 15th, 2009

6:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Jacksontown Methodist Church, 9350 Jacksontown Road (St. Rt. 13), Jacksontown, OH

Fellow Beekeepers,

There are many reasons that one becomes a beekeeper, just observing the behavior and actions of the bees and the chance to experiment with different methods is so fulfilling. Then at the close of the season is nature's reward of golden honey. Many beekeepers feel failure when there is no surplus, as if this is the mark of a true beekeeper, but the bees have shared their year with us and we have seen and smelled and touched something that not many will ever experience, what else could one need?

As the seasons pass my own enthusiasm keeps building, everyday the bees share something new with me, as if saying, look there is something you didn't know. And, they are right, even after all these years I am but an infant among the bees.

The part of beekeeping that has become most important to me and hopefully to you is the relationships with my beekeeping friends. Since joining ECOBA I have met and enjoyed the friendship of a wide variety of people, all doing the same thing a different way, which is what makes beekeeping what it is.

The Honeyfest was a great success, a very large crowd and the entertainment was great as was the Photo contest chaired by Gary Blackford and company. Please thank all the members who assisted. A special thanks to Arnold Crabtree who had the idea for this event.

The Fairfield county fair is next up, we could still use some help during the day if you are available. Please contact Jim Mathews.

We are considering doing a make-over of our beeyard. It is presently located at Ed Rowlands farm, this is a wonderful place and Ed has agreed to the use of his land. The plan is to have regular evening workshops to compare methods and ideals and to offer hands on experience. Seeking input on curriculum and course design plus there will be a need for someone to help organize. Please contact me with suggestions.

There has been some interest in a more advanced beekeeping school, maybe evenings or on Saturday. We had this a few years ago and it was quite the success, but it requires some participation from members willing to teach particular areas as needed, once again contact me with your input.

Thanks,

Roger Miller
President, East Central Ohio Beekeepers

McDonald's Greenhouse is located 2 ½ miles north of I-70 on St. Rt. 93. It is owned and operated by James & Susan McDonald. This is the fourth year for their corn maze. The 5-acre corn maze is designed as Old McDonald's Farm, E-I-E-I-O with a barn and silo. The activities include a hayride, pumpkins, petting zoo, yard games, milking a Holstein cow, butterfly and honey bee exhibits and darling cut-outs.



They are open on weekends for the public. Weekday and evening field trips are perfect for your school, scout, day care, church, or senior group. We will custom design your tour to fit the age and abilities of your group. From milking a cow to tasting fresh honey and apple cider.

It's a fall family tradition. Contact them at 452-4858 or www.mcdonaldsgreenhouse.com

Honeyfest Photo Contest



Peoples' Choice, "My First Bee" by Lydia Voorhees, Columbus, OH



2nd Place, "The Journey" by Ron French, Grove City

How are the Bees?

This has been the question I receive most often over the last three years due to the publicity of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and the general lack of bees in peoples' yards. Although the answer given to the public varies around the country, it is an excellent question for us as beekeepers right now. How are your bees?

By this time of the year, I like my bees to be well ready for winter. Are they? Not always, but you have to have a goal! Ideally, lifting a hive by this time of the year is a struggle, meaning it is heavy with honey. Have you checked your hives for mites? By now, hives which are susceptible to mite damage or just overrun with mites are probably lost causes. Treatment this late may be a waste of time and money, but could reduce the spread of mites to other hives during robbing.

Look at the general health of the colony now and its stores. Today, as I write, the bees are probably not flying, it's 53 °F and windy. On good days, I still see the bees on asters and goldenrod but our first killing frost is fast approaching. Feed syrup if necessary.

I recently read an article on feeding pollen in the fall in which scientists found strong evidence that supplementary pollen or pollen substitute fed in the fall correlated directly to stronger hives in the spring. I am trying this on some of my hives this fall.

I would like to invite participants to a study.

3rd Place "Riding High" by Edward Keys, Groveport, OH



Over the last few years, I have treated hives and also left a portion of my hives untreated and tracked who survived and who didn't. If you would like to join me in this, please email (buzzword@ohiohomestead.com) I will email you a form to fill out. Please respond soon as winter is almost upon us. I am sure the results will be interesting and possibly very educational. I will report results in the spring. Good wintering! —editor

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Ohio State Beekeepers Association News

The OSBA Fall meeting in on Nov 7th, 2009 at the Marion Franklin Recreation Center, 2801 Lockbourne Rd, Columbus, OH 43702. If you are a member you will be getting notice that this meeting will have pre-registration. For non-members that would like to attend, you can contact Dana McVay, 740-987-3810 or beedasseled@yahoo.com for your registration form. Hope to see all beekeepers at our state fall meeting. More details at <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/>

Beekeeper of the Year

Now is the time to again look within your local association for the "OSBA Beekeeper of the Year for 2009". This is someone you recognize as going above and beyond the norm for your association in general and beekeeping in particular. That is someone who mentors others, leads your association in beekeeping activities, works legislatively in Ohio for the benefit of all beekeepers, etc. This person must also be a member of OSBA which further demonstrates their support of Ohio beekeeping.

When you identify that person send your recommendation to each of the three who must decide who will be the 2009 pick.

The *three* judges you send this to are: ***Be certain to send this to all three judges!***

Bob Hooker, OSBA VP beekeeperbob17@hotmail.com

Dana McVay, OSBA Sec. beedasseled@yahoo.com

Joe Kovalski, 2008 Beekeeper of the Year josephkovaeski@sbcglobal.net

The nominations must be received ***no later than October 10, 2009***

OSBA Annual Election- Fall 2009

Elections will be held during the 2009 fall meeting on November 7th in Columbus, OH. All offices are up for election. That is; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Director Positions.

The Pres, VP, Sec & Treas. positions are for two year terms and the Director positions are for four year terms. OSBA needs your leadership to continue with new ideas on where we should be going to best serve Ohio Beekeepers and Beekeeping.

If you are willing to accept one of these leadership positions please forward your name to the nominating committee chairman, Bob Hooker at beekeeperbob17@hotmail.com If you know of someone else who would serve OSBA well, you may nominate them but first *be certain they will accept your nomination*.

These nominations must be made by Nov 1st to be on the printed ballot. However, nominations will be opened during the morning session of the November meeting to accept additional nominations from the floor.

It is the desire of the nominating committee to have all offices contested by at least two candidates. Therefore, please consider adding your name to the ballot or that of someone you recognize with leadership qualities.

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ECOBA meets the third Thursday of every month from February through November. Meetings are held at the Jacksontown Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The Jacksontown Methodist Church is located on S.R. 13 (9350 Jacksontown Rd.) north of Interstate 70 and just south of the junction of SR 13 and U.S. 40 in Jacksontown.

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.