

The Buzzword

Jan/Feb 2009

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

Welcome New Beekeepers!

We have eight new beekeepers enrolled in this year's bee school taught by Earl James. At least, this is what I thought on Tuesday, five days before the first class was held on February 7th at Dawes Arboretum Education Center. When Saturday rolled around, I pulled into a full parking lot with cars looking for more spaces! Suddenly we had TWENTY-SEVEN enrollments with more than 40 students attending. It is great to see such an outstanding turnout and interest in beekeeping.

Please hold off on all the beekeeping horror stories until the new beekeepers get their feet wet (stung?) and make them feel welcome to the special community that is beekeeping. Mentors please seek out the students in your area.



Instructor Earl James explains the finer points of frames

Regional Meetings

Western Pennsylvania Beekeeping Seminar Feb 20-21

Monaca, PA (NW of Pittsburgh)
Speakers: Diana Cox-Foster, Ed Levi
Contact: Beaver County Extension
724.774.3003 or 724.544.2900

Indiana Bee School

Feb. 28th
Indianapolis, IN
Keynote Speaker: Randy Oliver
Contact - Steve Doty 317.485.5593
or www.indianabeekeeper.goshen.edu

OSU/Tri-County Beekeepers

March 6th (Fri. evening), 7th (Sat.)
Wooster, OH
Keynote Speaker: John Skinner
Contact Sherry Ferrell
330.263.3684 or ferrell.6@osu.edu

March 28th

South Western Ohio Beekeepers
School
Loveland, OH (Cinci)
Keynote Speaker: Jim Tew
Contact 513.695.1311 or 513.887.3722

Workshops and Meetings

This is the season for workshops, beeschools, meetings, seminars; they all have different names but they all offer a chance to do many things.

1. Learn - there are always an assortment of sessions on a variety of topics from beginner to advanced as well as special interest topics like making value added products from honey or beeswax.
2. Buy - Another good reason to attend meetings. Many of the vendors, if contacted early enough, will bring your order to the meeting which saves you shipping. Vendors usually bring ample supplies of books, woodenware,

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OUR NEXT MEETING

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



Hopefully, this will soon be happening!

Quick Links

[Cinnamon and Honey for Health](http://www.1stholistic.com/Reading/health/health-honey-and-cinnamon.htm) - <http://www.1stholistic.com/Reading/health/health-honey-and-cinnamon.htm>

[Business is Buzzing](http://www.heifer.org) - <http://www.heifer.org>

In Honduras, industrious farmers improve their quality of life with the help of an equally industrious insect – the hardworking bee. This Heifer-supported microenterprise project is thriving in a rural mountain village where agriculture is still the main source of income for families.

[Growing Degree Day Phenological Calendar](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/) - <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>

Enter your zip code at this web site and get an idea of what plants are starting to bloom in your area based on Growing Degree Days (GDD)

[Pollen Watching](http://www.pollen.com/allergy-weather-forecast.asp?) - <http://www.pollen.com/allergy-weather-forecast.asp?>

Normally used by those with allergies, keep an eye on which pollen sources are active which may be available to your bees (then you can do a dance and tell them where to go!)

[Beesource Forums](http://www.beesource.com/forums/index.php) - <http://www.beesource.com/forums/index.php>

A great place to find information about everything bees. Honey, Queen Rearing, Top Bar Hives, Mead, Equipment for Sale (or to sell) and more. Glean what you can, but I stay out of the arguments!

WITH THE START OF A NEW BEEKEEPING YEAR, I WANT TO SAY "**THANK YOU**" TO EACH AND EVERY MEMBER FOR THE SUPPORT YOU GAVE ME AS SECRETARY FOR ECOBA. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH OUR NEW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS THIS COMING YEAR. ALWAYS BUZZING, DANA MCVAY

(Continued from page 1)

Workshops and Meetings

labels, bottles, etc. It's the beekeepers version of a kid in a candy store. Sometimes it's just nice to see things up close before you buy.

I attended the Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeeping Expo on Jan. 31 in Parkersburg, WV. Attendance to this show seems to grow every year. The expo is very well organized and they always get excellent speakers as well as many vendors like Simpson's Bee Supply, Kelleys, Dadant, Reids Apiary, Blue Sky Bee Supply and more. Think about this one next year for an early season bee fix.

See "Regional Meetings" on the front page for upcoming meetings in the area now through the end of March.

I like getting to at least one meeting a season. I always learn something, pick up a few odds and ends and talk bees all day long (since my wife gets tired of it!).

www.e-c-ohiobeekeepers.org

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The President's Message

Beekeepers,

In the past week I have attended officers meeting of the OSBA and ECOBA. At the state level there was discussion on status of HB 501 which seems to be stalled as most budget items are. The ODA apiary inspection section is also facing budget problems, also no information to offer at this time. The Ohio Queen Project is on track and is looking forward to another great year. Get involved! This benefits you. There is an interest in developing a Master Beekeeper Program for Ohio that would include all levels of experience. More information coming.

The ECOBA board meeting was the first meeting of the new members. There was discussion on how to attract and keep members. The meeting format will be slightly different. Each month a member will make a presentation on a very narrow topic, this month will be "feeding bees" by Jim Agsten. After the presentation of various methods of feeding bees there will be an open forum. The person presenting the information is not to be a target but just a tool to get discussion started. The schedule of upcoming topics will be presented at the February meeting. Most likely they will come from the beekeeping calendar allowing all to be informed before the need arises. Bring your questions and/or share your experiences. The library is open, borrow and learn. Bring snacks and items for the drawing, please. Get involved in the mentoring program.

We are always open to suggestions and of course, find that lost beekeeper and bring him to the meeting. Speaking of feeding, been out for a look see yet?

See you soon,

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



The quick grip type clamp with a right angle adapter makes a handy "third hand" to hold boxes square for gluing and nailing. Now is the time to get those new boxes built and painted for spring use. Mis-tinted paint can be found at most home centers for a fraction of the cost of new and suits the bees just fine!

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From Phil Craft, Apiarist, Kentucky Dept. of Agriculture

A small batch fondant recipe:

Mix 2 cups granulated sugar, 1.5 cups of water, 2 tablespoons corn syrup, and 1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar. Stir until sugar dissolves and continue to heat without stirring until the mixture reaches 238 degrees F. (Use a candy thermometer.) If you use bottled corn syrup from the grocery store, make sure it is "light" corn syrup, not "dark". Dark corn syrup has molasses in it, which should not be fed to bees.

Pour the mixture onto a cool surface and let it sit until cool enough to touch. Then beat the candy until it is thick and pour it into a thin container or mold, like a cookie sheet lined with wax paper, to harden.

The candy can be broken up and placed over the inner cover. Alternatively, an empty honey super can be placed on top of the brood chamber and the candy placed on stick supports on the top of the brood bars.

Some beekeepers will make a special small fondant feeder similar to an inner cover, but deeper (1 inch or more). The candy can be poured into this feeder and placed over the brood box upside down.

Another recipe for larger batches calls for 15 lbs. sugar, 3 lbs. corn syrup, 4 cups water, and 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar. Make the candy in the same manner as the small batch recipe. Cooking and beating are the keys.

See the entire article on feeding at: <http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/bees/documents/Coldweatherfeedingtipsinformationsheetrevised121807.pdf>

OHIO BEES

Five Frame Nucs \$90.00
3 Pound packages \$75.00
Queens \$18.00

These are Italian Bees. Weather permitting I should be able to start delivery the beginning of May. I will produce nucs and queens through the summer. I will sell basic wooden equipment, supers, bottom boards, inner and outer cover. All premium grade lumber.

ROGER'S HONEY

Roger and Marlene Miller
Beekeepers

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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.