

# The Buzzword

Mar/Apr. 2009

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

## We've Swarmed!!!

Our association's growth created a need for a new, larger location to hold our meetings. The February meeting at Dawe's Arboretum was standing room only. Prior to the meeting, officers and trustees toured the Jacksontown Methodist Church and recommended changing the meeting location during the business meeting. The motion was passed. The new location will allow for more room and should serve the association's needs.

The Jacksontown Methodist Church is located on State Route 13 (9350 Jacksontown Rd.) just south of U.S. 40. If you are coming from Interstate 70, exit on SR13 North and the church will be on the left as you enter Jacksontown.

Please join us Thursday, March 19th, at 6:30 p.m. in our new meeting location. Guest speaker will be Dr. Joe Latshaw.

## Meetings & Events

### March 28th

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

### May 6th

Lorain County Beekeepers Assoc. Field Day. For more information, contact Denizil St. Clair at 440-647-2602

### July 9 - 11

Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS)  
Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio  
[www.heartlandbees.com](http://www.heartlandbees.com)

## Swarm Cell Increase

Not a very apt title as not many people want to increase the number of swarm cells they have, but for someone who wants a few new queens raised under ideal conditions, swarm cells are an excellent source of FREE queens to lead your splits and possibly prevent the parent hive from swarming...possibly! You may need to replace a dead out from winter or you may just want to increase the number of hives you have. Swarms cells are a cheap way to do just that.

If you have equipment empty from a hive that died, first determine as best you can, why the hive died. If in doubt, ask your bee inspector. What you don't want is equipment full of American Foulbrood spores. If you purchase or "inherit" used equipment, be as sure as you can it is disease free. A great reference I think every beekeeper should have is The Field Guide to "**Honey Bee Parasites, Pests, Predators, and Diseases**" put out by Penn State University. It is a pocket size reference with excellent descriptions and color photos of normal bees and brood (you have to know what "right" looks like to know if there is something wrong) as well as disease conditions and pests. It is available from [Dadants](#), [Kelleys](#), [Simpsons](#), and others. Money well spent. Of course, new equipment is fine but be sure to feed until your

### \*\*OUR NEXT MEETING\*\*

**March 19th, 2009 6:30 p.m.**

**\*\*\*\*\*NEW LOCATION!!!!\*\*\*\*\***

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

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(Continued on page 2)

## Quick Links

[MAAREC Fact Sheets - http://maarec.psu.edu/factsheets.html](http://maarec.psu.edu/factsheets.html)

[Fat Bees - Parts 1—4](http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com)

<http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com>

(Continued from page 1) *Swarm Cell Increase* comb is drawn.

If you find a hive about to swarm and you didn't destroy all the queen cells when you separated the upper deep from the lower, and you like that hive, it's not too aggressive, made a decent crop of honey last year, and it survived the winter, that's not a bad start for a new colony. Capped queen cells can be cut out with a razor knife or Xacto tool. Remove 3 frames of brood in all stages, egg, open larva, capped brood, and a frame of nectar/pollen to your nuc. Add a frame of foundation or a drawn comb to fill out a 5 frame nuc. Create a depression in a frame with mostly capped brood somewhere near the center of the frame. Carefully cut the queen cell out and transfer it to the prepared depression. You may move the nuc to a new location to keep any field bees that were on the frames or if you are leaving it in the same apiary, shake an extra frame of bees from a frame of open brood into the nuc.

Of course, always check for the mother queen of these cells on the frames you shake or transfer. You may also want to requeen the parent hive by finding the queen, dispatching her and leaving a queen cell behind. If she is still laying, you can also start a nuc with her. As always, there is no certainty to preventing a swarm once queen cells are capped, but I find that when you make a split, and there is still some open brood or even eggs in the hive, you may just dissuade that hive from swarming...or maybe not! —editor

For the latest in beekeeping news, sign up for "Catch the Buzz" from Bee Culture magazine.  
[www.BeeCulture.com](http://www.BeeCulture.com)

[www.e-c-ohiobeekeepers.org](http://www.e-c-ohiobeekeepers.org)

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**TREATMENTS,**

**QUEEN EXCLUDERS, HIVE TOOLS, VEILS,  
SMOKERS, ETC.**

One of the earliest sources of nectar and pollen in Ohio is the Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*). Red maples and Sugar maples bloom a week or two after the silvers. As you



can see, the "flower" structures are quite small, not any larger than the flower buds themselves, but I breathe a small sigh of relief if the weather is favorable for flying, the bees are alive, and the maples are in bloom. Other early sources of note are Skunk cabbage, pussy willow, other willows, snow drops, and even crocus. Every little bit helps this time of year. Don't forget water!

## The President's Message

Beekeepers,

As spring approaches the first thing to emerge was our class of new beekeepers, I am sure these new-bees will appreciate any assistance that they can get. Please look at the mentoring maps during the next meeting and match up to one of them.

The March meeting will be held in our new facility, The United Methodist Church, located at 9350 Jacksontown Rd. SE (Rt 13). This is about ¼ mile south of Rt 40. This will give us a larger meeting area with many amenities.

Our speaker will be Dr. Joe Latshaw, a renown queen breeder. He will speak about varroa mites and their relationship with the honey-bee. Please make him welcome.

As the days get longer and the average temperature starts to rise, so to goes the activity within the hive, brood production increases dramatically bringing with it a corresponding increase in honey consumption. Each egg laid requires a cell of honey and a cell of pollen. This means a frame of eggs requires a complete frame of honey and a complete frame of pollen. How do your colonies measure up? Now is the time to open those colonies and check the location of the bees in relationship to the honey stores. Whatever damage is done by exposing the bees to some cool weather will be outweighed by moving food within their reach. Maybe your hives are heavy but is it where it needs to be?

Hope to see everyone at the new "brood chamber" on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Bring some snacks and items for the drawing.

Sincerely,

Roger Miller

### [EAS 2009 August 3-7, 2009](http://www.easternapiculture.org) [Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, NY](http://www.easternapiculture.org)

<http://www.easternapiculture.org>

An inverted stock tank used to supply water for the bees in late winter/early spring. Any device can be used that will hold water and allow the bees safe access to the water (to avoid drowning).



[www.e-c-ohiobeekeepers.org](http://www.e-c-ohiobeekeepers.org)

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#### 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

Home 1-740-862-2501  
Cell 1-614-404-8605  
E-mail [romamiller@earthlink.net](mailto:romamiller@earthlink.net)

## 2009 BEEKEEPING WORKSHOPS

Once again I am offering beekeeping workshops during the months of May, June and July. These classes are for all levels of beekeepers and are intended to provide the much needed continuing education. The Schedule of days and times is as follows.

- May 16<sup>th</sup> 9am until 1pm.
- June 6<sup>th</sup> 9am until 1pm.
- July 11<sup>th</sup> 9am until 1pm.
- July 18<sup>th</sup> 9am until 1pm.

Each date is a complete and separate class. A course outline will be given to attendees. All necessary supplies are provided. You must provide your own protective wear.

The cost is \$20.00 per person, Children 16 and under can attend free but must be accompanied by a paying adult.

The classes will be held in my bee yard at my home.

The course will cover all aspects of beekeeping such as clothing, equipment, bees etc. There will be plenty of hands on training to learn how to work your bees and inspect your colonies. Other topics to be discussed include: record keeping, various hive manipulation techniques designed to help you become more self-sufficient, disease and pests, methods of monitoring mites, basic queen rearing procedures and much more.

You will leave this class a better, more confident beekeeper.

Thank you,

Roger Miller  
ROGER'S HONEY  
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Baltimore, Ohio 43105-9640  
E-Mail romamiller@earthlink.net



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740.689.0628

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.**