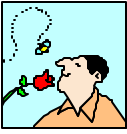


THE BEE HERDER

A publication of the Medina Co. Beekeeper's Assn.

www.medinabeekeepers.com

March 2007



Next Meeting Monday

March 19, 2007

7:00 PM

Speaker: Jeanne Schell

"Honey Plants"

The next meeting of the Medina Co. Beekeeper's Assn. will be held on Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7:00 pm in our meeting room at the A. I. Root Co., 623 W. Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio (at the end of the West Liberty Commons Building).

Hi, From The Prez....

The March meeting will feature Beekeeper and Master Gardener Jeanne Schell talking about Honey Plants in Northeast Ohio. This serves dual purpose since this is the final class for our beginners, who will be attending once again, to learn of honey plants and to meet and greet our regular members. They will be looking for mentors for their activities this summer, so if you've a bent to lending advice, help or anything else to our newest members, raise your hand and we'll get you hooked up. Also, we'll raise a glass of March Punch to these brand new keepers who've managed to sit through 4 weeks of our lectures, slides, demonstrations and questions and answers. Congratulations and Welcome! Also, if you haven't heard about Colony Collapse Disorder and honey bees in the U.S., you've been lost in a beeyard somewhere. Stories are everywhere, in every newspaper, and talked about at every meeting. But answers are few and far between from the scientists and experts looking at the problem. Is this a new problem, or an old problem resurfacing? Who's bees are getting this, really? Are only migratory folks seeing the problem, or are hobby beekeepers seeing colonies collapse too? Kim Flottum has been in the thick of this with these same researchers and scientists, trying to find out what's what. There are some answers, and there are some things you should

be aware of regarding this...come to the March meeting and find out what's what with Colony Collapse Disorder. You don't want to miss this information, or this meeting! And get out and check YOUR colonies ASAP this month to see how they are doing for food...it was a lousy fall, and a long stretch of cold...check today. so you have bees tomorrow. See you all at the meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By: Gwen Rosenberg



Medina County Beekeepers Meeting Minutes February 19, 2007

Sadly, last month's meeting went entirely unrecorded because the secretary reports that she was unlawfully detained by U.S. Secret Service personnel upon reentering Portage County following the previous month's meeting in Medina. She states that after her arrest she was flown to a secret prison facility somewhere near Wooster, Ohio and questioned at length about her affiliations with nonregistered beekeepers believed to be operating out of Medina County. She states that while incarcerated she was unable to contact club members to report her absence for the January meeting. It was only after intense negotiations and a prisoner swap involving a orchard owner who failed to label his mason jars of honey, was she eventually released to her loving family who hadn't done a stitch of laundry in her absence.

Now on to February's meeting minutes. The meeting was packed tonight with new people reporting for the first of many beekeeping classes being taught by Kim, Buzz and Bruce. The new people mingled and visited with members until class time when they went to class and members stayed to hear Sonny Barker discuss advanced spring management.

The treasurer posted his financial report in the newsletter and the secretary made up some bogus story about missing the last meeting (see above). We also passed around the swarm list.



Treasurer's Report

By: Mike Rossander

The Beginner Beekeeper classes are off to a great start. Welcome to all our new members and thank you to the volunteers helping to teach the class. Please greet the new members when you see them at the meeting.

Thanks to everyone who has already paid their 2007 membership dues. If you haven't had the chance to pay dues yet, please see me at the meeting (or send it by mail using the form below). Again, if you can help us hold down costs by receiving the newsletter by email, please let either me or Nancy know. It makes a big difference to the club.

I will have a draft copy of this year's membership roster at the meeting. Please stop and confirm your address. I tried to get everything copied correctly but, well, sometimes I had to guess on the handwriting. We'll hand out copies of the roster to everyone at the April meeting. Thanks for your patience.

The Swarm List is posted on the internet and will be faxed to the local police and fire departments in a few weeks. You can see the list at www.medinabeekeepers.com/Swarm.html Please see me if you still want to be added to the list.

Finally, the annual Apiary Registration with the state is coming due. Most established beekeepers have already received the form in the mail. The Ohio Department of Agriculture charges \$5.00 per apiary regardless of how many colonies you have at the location. If you haven't received the form yet, you can find it online at www.ohioagriculture.gov/pubs/divs/plnt/frms/ap/plnt-ap-4201-002.pdf

Our financials through the end of February are:

	Feb 2007	YTD
INCOME		
Education Fees	600.00	645.00
Member Dues	280.00	780.00
TOTAL INCOME	880.00	1425.00
EXPENSES		
Education	260.00	260.00
Miscellaneous	10.59	10.59
Newsletter	43.00	87.64
Refreshments	10.00	10.00
Speaker Honorarium	50.00	50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	373.59	418.23
OVERALL TOTAL	506.41	1,006.77

Balance as of 28 Feb 2007: \$3,192.20
less Sales Tax Payable: 0.00

Notes:

- Education Fees are the Beeginner Beekeeper class fees (including the membership dues for those new members). Education Expenses are the textbooks issued in the class.
- Miscellaneous is postage and copying costs associated with our attempts to resolve our 2002 and 2003 Ohio Sales Tax filings.

2007 Meeting Dates & Agendas

Mar 19	Honey Plants – Jeanne Schell
Apr 16	open
May 21	Extraction demo
June 18	Bee yard demo
July 16	Clean Fair Booth (pizza & soda)
July 29 – Aug 5 Medina County Fair	
Aug 20	Club picnic
Sept 17	open
Oct 15	open
Nov 19	open
Dec 17	Holiday Party

Membership Application or Renewal Medina County Beekeepers Assn.

Name _____

Check here if this is a renewal and all information on the roster is correct. Otherwise, fill out the section below:

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Help MCBA keep costs low. Yes

Can you receive the newsletter by email only? No

(Optional) # of Colonies _____

Dues for 2007 are \$20 for individual or family. Make checks payable to **Medina Co. Beekeepers Assn.** and send to care of: Mike Rossander, 1871 Settlers Reserve Way, Westlake, OH 44145

DUES ARE DUE

Per our constitution, *The membership fee shall be payable January 1 to the Treasurer. Membership may begin any month. Fees paid during the interim carry to December 31. No partial-year dues are accorded*

Package bees for Sale

Queen Right Colonies package bee prices for 2007

We are selling 2# packages for

Russian \$65.00

New World Carniolan \$60.00

Golden Italian \$60.00

For more information please call 440-647-2602 or e-mail

qrstelair@midviewinternet.com

Package bees will again be in short supply this year, call early to confirm your order.

Packaged Bees Driven from Georgia

QUEENS

Italian Queens \$14 each

Russian Queens \$16 each

3 LB. PACKAGES

Italians \$70 each

Russians \$73 each

Early Bird Special:

*\$3 off per package ordered and paid for
by March 30th*

Call Tom Jefferies 440-236-5994

24564 Squires Road

Columbia Station, OH 44028

Tjefhwb@aol.com

“Cool” Refreshments Column

Tis the month for the leprechaun green stuff... If anyone wants to bring something, call Peggy at 330- 723-6265 or leave a message. All baked contributions or snacks are always welcome.

Thanks....Peggy

Refreshment sign-ups:

March: Richard Sprague

April: Bonnie Opperman

If you were not able to attend the Tri-County meeting in Wooster last week, here is an article summing it all up from the Plain Dealer.

Beekeepers in bugaboo stay cool

Enthusiasts gather to discuss colony shortages

Sunday, March 04, 2007

Michael Scott **Plain Dealer Reporter**

Wooster -- Yes, America's beekeepers are increasingly concerned by almost daily news of "Colony Collapse Disorder" as bees from Florida to California mysteriously desert hives.

But don't mistake an anxious buzz for full-blown beekeeper panic.

"We're not the type of people who do that -- beekeepers have been through tough times before," said Big Prairie resident Marion Yoder, president of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association of Northeast Ohio. "A lot of people are gathering today to talk about what we should do next, if anything."

The Tri-County group on Saturday was the host for the nation's largest one-day beekeepers' workshop at Ohio State University's Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster.

The daylong event drew nearly 600 hobbyists and small and commercial producers from around the Midwest. They listened to lectures, got to taste-test mead, breads and other honey products, and compared notes on raising bees -- but almost every discussion ended in questions or concerns about Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD.

"If you're at a beekeeper convention and you're not talking CCD, you're not talking," John Grafton, apiary program supervisor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, told several hundred listeners in one seminar. "And it's not that we don't have a clue about this thing -- we've got clues, but we just don't have any good answers."

No good answers, but plenty of bad anecdotes. "There's a fella in southern Ohio who has lost 1,000 of his 1,500 colonies," Grafton said. "It's a tough time to be a beekeeper."

Overall, beekeepers in more than 20 states, including Ohio, where most owners won't even check their hives until later this month, are already reporting heavy losses -- much of them attributed to the newly named phenomenon that some believe led to the disappearance of millions of bees.

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Theories abound for why: some say the bees themselves didn't store enough energy or weren't fed enough by their keepers; others theorize that the bees are brain-damaged from chemicals used to keep mites away and are flying away and forgetting how to get back to their hives.

In any case, what's bad for the bee is bad for you and me.

Experts say that:

- More than 90 crops in North America rely on honeybees to transport pollen, which causes fertilization and allows production of fruit and seed.
- Bees are worth an estimated \$14 billion a year to the U.S. economy.
- About one-third of the typical American's diet is directly or indirectly the result of honeybee pollination.

Ohio hasn't been a top honey-producing state since the late 1940s, but last year the state still had about 25,000 managed honeybee colonies, said officials who had already been predicting a second straight bad year before the CCD news hit.

In the CCD cases, honeybees have simply vanished, leaving no carcasses and no clues in their colonies -- but a hive still full of honey, pollen and larvae.

"Almost as if an alien spaceship with an alien vacuum cleaner had just sucked them all up," Grafton said jokingly.

But Grafton and others, particularly Jamie Ellis, a professor of entomology at the University of Florida and keynote speaker at the Wooster workshop, aren't convinced that CCM is really all that new.

"The scientific community is befuddled about why, but we also know that there have been disappearances before," Ellis said. "Some people out there aren't even certain it exists as a

syndrome but wonder whether with the Internet, we're all just hearing about a process that has happened before from time to time."

As recently as 2002, a similar problem was called the Disappearing Disease of Honey Bees -- a name coined in 1915 - - said James Tew, a specialist at the OSU Honeybee Laboratory who moderated an afternoon discussion on CCD.

The American bee population is mostly owned by beekeepers after wild honeybee numbers plummeted in the 1980s when two species of parasitic mites appeared, wiping out most wild bee populations and placing more pressure on managed colonies.

Honey production was down 11 percent in the United States in 2005, the USDA said -- and that was without the devastation of CCD.

That, of course, led to an increased cost to consumers. Nationwide, honey prices rose last year to an average of more than \$1.04 per pound, up 14 percent from 2005.

So what hope is there?

Ellis said that because most of the beekeepers who have sustained large losses are part of the large, if little-known, migratory bee industry, "lots of money is being thrown at this."

For starters, he said the National Honey Board has given the Colony Collapse Disorder Work Group money for research.

"We don't understand everything about bees anyway, that's for sure," Ellis said. "But every bit of money put toward research is going to help us in the long run."

*To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:
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THE BEE HERDER

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