



THE BUZZZZ



Lorain County Beekeepers Association

<http://www.loraincountybeekeepers.org>

Volume 9, Issue 92

FEBRUARY 2012

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L.C.B.A. MISSION STATEMENT: TO PROMOTE BEEKEEPING THROUGH EDUCATION, COOPERATION, OR ANY OTHER EFFICIENT MEANS

My fellow beekeepers;

Once again as we head into the new spring season, we find a different kind of "end of winter scenario." After the most rain we have ever experienced last year, we now go into a virtual snow-less winter at this point, but as the old saying goes for this North-East Ohio area "If you don't like the weather, wait ten minutes and it will change", or something like that.

As we head into February we find the queen is already shifting gears in anticipation of the upcoming season. It seems the queen and her subjects can actually foresee beforehand how to project out of winter into spring with the amount of brood the hive produces.

With the build - up of the brood, and incorporating on how to make the "bee bread" last until the first pollen

"flow" from the budding trees is in bloom. This is all just a wonder of nature which happens year after year.

Just as the hive is starting to bloom, we as beekeepers must prepare ourselves for the new season. Just like our bees, we all have a responsibility to bear in order to promote beekeeping in every way we can. A lot has been said about Colony Collapse Disorder, but nothing we can rely on as the true cause. From cell phone interference, high frequency wave lengths from overhead power lines, fly parasite infestation, Varroa mites, small hive beetles, and yes, even Russian plot to kill the bees by radiation, just to name a few.

We as humans have a voice, unlike the bees, that can be used to our advantage to end this beekeeping plight. We can get involved in the government making

process, if only by calling or e-mailing our legislators and making them aware that not enough is being done to research the problem. Let them know that things are not OK to go on as is for something as important as the food we and our children consume, and that more funding is needed for research. This won't be something that will occur overnight and we must be "vigilant" as the new saying goes, and be persistent in our goal to end this potential bee industry catastrophe.

Remember "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Well gotta go now "the bees are calling".

Your VP, Bill Vittori

2012 BUZZZZ CALENDAR

February 10 - Regular Meeting /Speaker Randall Westfall/Stimulating early spring build up and making early spring splits

March 3 - Tri-County Beekeepers Workshop-Wooster

LCBA Class Dates

March 2 - Beginner Beekeeping Class 1 -Orion DeYoe

March 9 - Beginner Beekeeping Class 2 -Pam Schlichenmayer

March 16 - Beginner Beekeeping Class 3 - Dave Williams

March 23 - Beginner Beekeeping Class 4 - Denzil St. Clair

April 13 - TBA



LOCATION & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

LCBA meetings are held the second Friday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

The First Church

(United Church of Christ)

106 N. Main St. Oberlin, OH

Membership dues are **\$25.00 if you receive by mail**, \$20.00 per year if you receive by e-mail. Those receiving by e-mail can pick up a hard copy at the meeting. Membership includes all immediate family members. Memberships run per calendar year, January to December. Membership expiration date is December 31st of each year for mail or e-mail. You can renew your membership on the web site www.loraincountybeekeepers.com with Pay Pal or

Send dues to the Treasurer:

Dave Williams

11923 Green Rd. Wakeman, OH 44889

EDITOR'S NOTE:

If you have moved or your e-mail changes, please notify Dave at a meeting or by e-mail, dogpatch@centurytel.net. You must keep information & membership dues current to receive your newsletter in a timely manner.

Check LCBA web site or contact one of the executive members for meeting changes or cancellations due to bad weather.

L.C.B.A. 2011 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	PHONE	E-MAIL
President: Denzil St. Clair	(440) 647-2602	qrcltd@zoominternet.net
Vice Pres: Bill Vittori	(440) 323-4942	billv99@prodigy.net
Secretary: Marty Buck	(440) 775-0556	mbuck@oberlin.net
Treasurer: Dave Williams	(440) 965-4170	dogpatch@centurytel.net
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Lorain County Inspector - Jim Toole	(440) 320-8659	legend31@centurytel.net

LCBA Executive Meeting is held the last Wednesday of every month unless holidays change the schedule.

The meetings are held at the Henrietta Township Hall on Vermilion Rd. in Oberlin at 7:00 p.m.

If you plan to attend, contact an executive to make sure the meeting is still taking place on scheduled date. As you well know, things can tend to change for various reasons.

We encourage members to attend.

VARROA SENSITIVE HYGIENIC QUEENS

It looks like QRC and LCBA will be producing some Varroa Sensitive Hygiene (VSH) queens (from Glenn Apiaries) this season. We will start with 25 to 50 colonies which will produce about the same number of queens every 25 to 30 days.

We do need help and are willing to work around your schedule. The success of this program will be contingent on the involvement and help we receive from others. Someone will have to assemble all necessary equipment this winter and it would be best to share this responsibility among several individuals.

At first volunteers which help with the program will receive first choice of these queens. The number of volunteers and queens produced will determine the number of queens

available to the workers at the outset. After the initial needs of the volunteers are met we will have some for sale to the public on a first come basis.

These are pure VSH Italian queens and are scheduled to arrive May 15 where we have set up a yard for this purpose.

These queens were developed by scientists at the USDA Bee Breeding Lab in Baton Rouge and were selected for their natural defense mechanisms that were hidden away in their genome. Selection of these traits over many generations has developed a bee that is not only resistant to Varroa mites, but American Foulbrood, Chalk brood, Wax Moths and Small Hive beetles as well.

According to Glenn Apiaries web-site, <http://www.glenn-apiaries.com> which we invite



everyone to take a look at for more information about VSH queens, if over a period of years we can introduce these traits into our local apiaries, we hope to have healthier bees depending on the bees natural defenses to help fight off disease and parasites rather than chemicals. This is a win-win for bees and beekeepers alike. There will be more on this in the coming months as beekeeping season draws closer.

Submitted by Denzil St. Clair

BEE MY VALENTINE

As we all know February 14th is Valentine's Day and it is just a few days after our meeting. So I thought it would be fun to see how creative you could be with a Valentine snack or dessert. We miss Connie Williams who was our hostess for several years and her creative themes she had every month.

Since chocolates are always given to our special Valentine how about we make our theme "Chocolate". Try and make something with Chocolate in it or on it and of course, making it with honey in the recipe would be great. Always remember you can check National Honey Board web site

<http://www.honey.com> for some great recipes with honey in them. You can also do a search in Google or Yahoo or any of the popular search engines and look for honey recipes. You'll be surprised at what you might find. So **bee** creative and we will all feel like special Valentine's sampling all the goods.

If you can help out with being the hostess each month please let us know. It entails coming a little early and making coffee and getting out the cups and other items prepared for the evening.

If you are interested, let any of the execs know.

BUYER BEWARE

Beekeeping Alert:

I just received a call from an auctioneer about used beekeeping equipment to be auctioned off at an estate sale in Wellington this week. This same beekeeper had foulbrood about 15 years ago, as did a beekeeper across the road from him, both on St Rt. 58.

Be aware foulbrood is out there and it is buyer beware.

Propolis is One of the Most Abundant Sources of Flavonoids

Beneficial Effects of Propolis on Human Health and Neurological Diseases

[Front Biosci \(Elite Ed\)](#), 2012 Jan 1;4:779-93

Propolis is a natural product, collected by honeybees *Apis mellifera*, from various plant sources. Propolis is extensively used in foods and beverages because it improves human health. It contains more than 300 natural compounds such as polyphenols, phenolic aldehydes, sesquiterpene-quinones, coumarins, amino acids, steroids and inorganic compounds.

Propolis exhibits a broad spectrum of biological and pharmacological properties such as antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, antitumor, anticancer, antiulcer, hepatoprotective, cardioprotective, and neuroprotective actions. The chemical composition and beneficial properties of propolis vary greatly depending on the phytogeographical areas, seasonal collection time, and botanical source. Polyphenols found in fruits and vegetables are beginning to receive increased attention due to their vital role in protecting neural

cells from oxidative stress and neuroinflammation associated with normal aging and chronic age-related diseases.

Propolis is one of the most abundant sources of polyphenols (mainly flavonoids and phenolic acids). This overview is an attempt to discuss the molecular mechanism underlying the potential beneficial effects of propolis on human health and neurological diseases.



Some amazing pictures are posted from other beekeepers who have requested to Friend us on Face Book. This one was posted recently. Not sure exactly where this was, but you can see a bunch of hives in the background. I forgot to click on the name to see. There are also two other swarms hanging off to the left. This would probably fill a couple of hives. We now have friends from all parts of the world.

The one on the top right is in Brazil. Bottom right is Cuernavaca-Morelos. Artificial insemination was being done. Not sure where that is. I find location by clicking on their names.



LCBA NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE MINUTES

The exec meeting was held in November at the Henrietta Township Hall.

Executive members present: Denzil St. Clair, Bill Vittori, Dave Williams, Jim Toole, John Schick, Martin Buck, Valerie Weiss.

Members present: Sheila St. Clair.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Upcoming meeting topics were discussed. The movie "Vanishing of the Bees" will be shown in January and Tom Oates will discuss Splitting Colonies in February.

There was a discussion about the LCBA election of officers in December. Since no nominations were received at the November meeting, Jim Toole agreed to serve a term

as President.

Beginner's classes will run from March 2nd to March 23rd. We need instructors for:

March 2nd – Introduction to Beekeeping Equipment

March 9th – Use of Equipment

March 16th – Diseases and Pests

March 23rd – Wrap Up
Denzel asked for suggestions for topics for future LCBA meetings.



Minutes submitted by Martin Buck

Left to right is John Schick, Bruce Sampsell, Bill Vittori, Marty Buck



DECEMBER 2011 EXEC MINUTES

Officers: Valerie Weiss, Bill Vittori, John Schick, Dave Williams, Martin Buck

Members: Sheila St Clair, Bruce Sampsell, Denzil St Clair, Dave & Scarlet Vargo

Bill opened the meeting.

We do not have a sitting President and currently will be taking turns running the regular meetings and writing the President's Report.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Randall Westfall will speak in February on the topic of building strong colonies for Spring splits.

Fair Book – Discussed Fair Book and made some corrections in Best of Show entries for 2012.

Beginning classes were discussed and the following will lead a class:

March 2nd - Introduction and Preliminaries - Chantal's son Orion DeYoe

March 9th - Setting up and getting started - Pam Schlichenmayer

March 16th - Bee Diseases & Pests - Dave Williams

March 23rd - Wrap up - Overview, Planning and Hindsight - Denzil St Clair

Lorain County needs a bee inspector. It will be brought up at the next meeting.

Bill will write the newsletter report for February.

Denzil suggested the Secretary should keep track of attendance, speakers, and topics to determine what best draws a crowd.

Future topics for meetings were discussed:

Topic: History of A. I. Root, Insemination demonstration, White House beekeeper, Honeybee nutrition, native bees, Deans Greenhouse (herbs), Local VSA queen raising by QRC in conjunction with LCBA.

Possible speakers: Dewey Caron, Ray Olivares, Bill Mondack

Tri-County - Valerie reported on their upcoming workshop. Sheila said they need instructors to teach children.

Bill will provide popcorn, Dave will cover beverages for January meeting. Members will view Vanishing of the Bees.



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Hours of Operation: March - Oct, M-F 10-6, Sat 10-2

Nov-Feb, M-Sat 10-2 • Closed Sundays & Holidays

Falling Asleep in the Garden by David Wagoner

All day the bees have come to the garden. They hover, swivel in arcs and, whirling, light on stamens heavy with pollen, probe and revel inside the yellow and red starbursts of dahlias or cling to lobelia's blue-white mouths or climb the speckled trumpets of foxgloves. My restless eyes follow their restlessness as they plunge bodily headfirst into treasure, gold-fevered among these horns of plenty.

They circle me, a flowerless patch
With nothing to offer in the way
of sweetness or light against the
first omens of evening.
Some, even now, are dying at the
end of their few weeks, some be-
ing born in the dark, some simply
waiting for life, but some are
dancing deep in their hives, tell-
ing the hungry the sun will be that
way, the garden this far:
This is the way to the garden.
They hum at my ear.
And I wake up, startled, seeing

the early stars beginning to bud in
constellations.
The bees have gathered somewhere
like petals closing for the coming
of the cold. The silhouette
of a sphinx moth swerves to drink
at a flower head.
The night-blooming moon opens its
pale corolla.

This poem submitted for the
BUZZZZ by Bonnie Pierson.

Account Balances - As of 1/23/2012

Accounts 1/23/2012

Bank Accounts

Lorain National Savings 23,427.71

New Lorain National Checking 5,583.29

TOTAL Bank Accounts 29,011.00

Cash Accounts PayPal 76.74

Petty Cash Fund 295.39

TOTAL Cash Accounts 372.13

OVERALL TOTAL 29,383.13

Income/Expense by Category - YTD

1/1/2012 through 1/23/2012 (Cash Basis)

INCOME

Membership 48.52

TOTAL INCOME 48.52

EXPENSES

Food 32.38

PayPal Fees 0.44

Supplies 2.75

TOTAL EXPENSES 35.57

OVERALL TOTAL 12.95

Submitted by Dave Williams



Equador

A very unique picture. This had to be specially made to protect the donkey. There are lots of very unique pictures that show up from friends of LCBA on Face Book.



France



Ashville N.C.

THE BUZZZZ - DISCLAIMER

The BUZZZZ occasionally places beekeeping items for sale as a courtesy to paid members of LCBA and paid ads for non members. In purchasing used equipment the spread of disease is possible as taught in classes by LCBA. This especially includes AFB. Anything purchased through these ads cannot be guaranteed to be disease free. The BUZZZZ and LCBA will not be responsible for any problems incurred from purchasing items placed for sale in advertising in The BUZZZZ.

Parasite turns honey bees into zombies

By Eric Pfeiffer / The Sideshow – Wed, Jan 4, 2012

A fly parasite is being blamed for an epidemic that has struck the honey bee population around the world. The parasite nests in the stomach of the bees and causes them to walk in circles, sometimes pursuing bright lights, before eventually dying.

The Parasitic Phorid Fly *Apocephalus borealis* is responsible for the zombie transformation, laying its eggs inside the abdomen of the honey bee.

"When we observed the bees for some time, the ones that were alive, we found that they walked

around in circles, often with no sense of direction," said San Francisco State University's Andrew Core lead author on the bee parasite study in the journal Plos One.

Bees usually just sit in one place, sometimes curling up before they die, said Core. But the parasitised bees were still alive, unable to stand up on their legs.

"They kept stretching them out and then falling over," he said. "It really painted a picture of something like a zombie."

And while the parasite may be causing immense damage to the honeybees population, there is an

upside to their discovery, according to the Mirror, "Scientists discovered the parasite by accident but they believe it may help them discover what is causing colony collapse disorder which is devastating honey bees in Europe and America cutting some populations in half."

The parasite is believed to be new and similar to one currently affecting the bumblebee population. Scientists are still figuring out exactly how the parasite works, but an early theory by San Francisco State Professor John Hafernik holds that the parasite changes the bees' "body clocks," which causes their erratic behavior and deaths.