

# THE BUZZZZZ



## LORAIN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER L.C.B.A. MISSION STATEMENT TO PROMOTE BEEKEEPING THROUGH EDUCATION, COOPERATION, OR ANY OTHER EFFICIENT MEANS

APRIL 2008

[www.loraincountybeekeepers.org](http://www.loraincountybeekeepers.org)

### FYI

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

First United Methodist Church  
45 S. Professor St. Oberlin, OH

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year and includes all immediate family members. Memberships run per calendar year, January to December. Membership expiration date is on your mailing label. Send dues to the Treasurer : Dave Williams - 11923 Green Road Wakeman, Ohio 44889

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

**DEADLINE** For Submissions to THE BUZZZZZ ..... for the **MAY** issue, are due **NO LATER THAN April 25th** . **Items not received by that date will go in the next months issue.**

Please send all articles, ads, and /or notes, to Valerie Weiss at 6080 Section Line Rd. New London Ohio 44851 or E-mail: [buzzzzeditor@verizon.net](mailto:buzzzzeditor@verizon.net)

Please **do not** include layout or extra characters, (bold, italic, indents, etc.) as they must be removed during editing process.

**Note: Submissions are subject to Executive Committee approval.**

### “NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT”

#### BOB HOOKER



Halleluiah! The sun is actually shining, the temperature is near 50 degrees and the bees are flying. It's about time, considering it is the last week of March. I am sure everyone else is as sick of the weather as I am. What a lousy March. There have been precious few days this month that the bees could fly. Usually they are bringing pollen most of the month, but they are just beginning to collect some. I checked my hives this afternoon and they were bringing it in from somewhere. I'm not sure where they are getting it since I haven't found any maple blossoms open yet on the trees I have checked. But still, it has been a successful winter so far. I had five hives in the fall and still have five hives alive now. They are not completely out of the woods yet. With a little luck and a break in the weather they should be in good shape. Time to get busy and finish up that work I have to do to get my supers and stuff in order. Things are going slowly now, but it will change before long and then it will be hard to keep up.

Reports I am hearing from around the state are that winter losses appear to be light in Ohio. Some of the commercial guys have had losses. One beekeeper in central Ohio with 2,000 hives lost 400, but he seems confident he will be able to meet his pollination contracts. The report from California is that there was a successful almond pollination season, but still there were heavier losses there this year than last. CCD seems to be the culprit again, but once again it seems to be hitting the big guys the hardest.

Our bee classes are going well with a lot of new beekeepers participating and eager to get started. We actually held the first class in the midst of the blizzard and had 25 people show up. Obviously they are well qualified to be beekeepers. We will have a make class for the first session on the first Friday in April, April 4, at 7 PM at the church.

Continued on page....4

#### L.C.B.A. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

2008

President: Bob Hooker	(440) 774-1645	<a href="mailto:beekeeperbob17@hotmail.com">beekeeperbob17@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President: Denzil St. Clair	(440) 647-2602	<a href="mailto:qrctclair@midviewinternet.com">qrctclair@midviewinternet.com</a>
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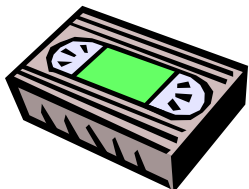
# BUZZING AHEAD in 2008!!! Mark Your Calendars

**APRIL 11- Regular meeting - (Monthly food theme- Meatless main dish)**

**MAY 3- FIELD DAY - Bring covered dish and dessert**

**MAY 9- Regular meeting - (Monthly food theme - Cake month w/ contest)**

### PLEASE RETURN LCBA VIDEO'S



**We've had a reminder in the newsletter every month to help remind**

**you to bring back your borrowed video's. We have many of you who have borrowed video's, but you haven't brought them back. Please look through your video's and see if you have borrowed one and return it at the next meeting. There are others who would like to borrow the video to enhance their beekeeping education, but our collection has become short due to video's not being returned.**

### RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER SOONER

How would you like to receive the newsletter before it even gets to the printer to be printed? You can do that by getting it through e-mail.

With the cost of postage steadily increasing, LCBA will have to increase membership dues to \$25.00 beginning in 2009 to help cover the cost of postage increases. Postage will increase for the second time within a year on May 12th. With the cost of fuel constantly rising, it will probably continue to affect postage rates.

However, if you receive it by e-mail you can keep your dues at the same amount of \$20.00 in 2009. If you receive by e-mail, you won't receive by mail. If you want to receive it both ways, it will be an additional \$5.00 per year for a total of \$25.00 per year.

If you want to help LCBA save now and receive it by e-mail, send an e-mail to The BUZZZZ editor, Valerie, e-mail address is, [buzzzzeditor@verizon.net](mailto:buzzzzeditor@verizon.net)

You can also give Valerie your e-mail at a meeting, but make sure it is legible print.

2009 is many months away, but we wanted to let you be aware now so that you had plenty of time to make a decision on how you would like to receive your newsletter.

### HONEY PRODUCTION COMPETITION

If you are interested in LCBA's honey production competition, this is the last opportunity to jump in and earn the title of the best beekeeper in Lorain County and having the honey to prove it. Your colonies must be in place May 4 through 10 at 44212 St. Rt. 511 just east of Oberlin. The winner of this competition will receive \$100.00 cash prize from LCBA and a deep hive kit, assembled and hot dipped from QRC, valued at \$65.00. For more information call Denzil St. Clair at 440-647-2602 or refer to the February issue of the BUZZZZ for complete details.

*Submitted by: Denzil St. Clair*

### CHILDREN'S CLASSES A SPRINGTIME SUCCESS!

If by chance you took your children to the Tri-County workshop March 1, you have already heard what a great time was had by all!

Most classes had 28 children strong. Our teachers and helpers went prepared to teach, enjoy and have fun and that they did. Incredible jobs by incredible people. The children came away having learned, created, shared, competed, and planted beekeeping from various aspects. Trading cards, (yes they come in beekeeping also), herb plants, delicious cookies to decorate, it was all there!

L.C.B.A. wants to say a big Thank You to Dave and Connie Williams, Bob and Shelley Bodkin, Bill Vitori, and the Helzer's for a very successful event.

*Submitted by: Sheila St. Clair*

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 27, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m. Henrietta Township Hall

Executive Members Present: Bob Hooker, Denzil St. Clair, Bill Vittori, Valerie Weiss, Don Lyons, Dave Williams and Chris Lyons. Members Present: Sheila St. Clair, Karin Wishner, and Jim Toole

The meeting opened with Dave's report. He received a letter for the 501C3 fee, which is \$750.00. He also received the bill for the fair building fee of \$350.00. There was a motion to pay the fee for the 501C3 application and all approved it. One new beekeeper signed up through PayPal. Dave passed around the bee trading cards that he purchased for Tri-County class for all to see.

There were no participants for the scholarships this year.

Gideon's sent a letter of thanks to the club for the donation the club sent to them in the honor of Bob Price.

The printers have received the materials for producing the cookbook. Valerie had to make a few last minute changes such as subcategories, changing the color of the cookbook back and a few changes were made to the pictures submitted. The printing of the cookbook will take 50 – 60 working days. Advertisers will help bring cost down to publish each book. A few more details will be worked out once the book has come back from printers. Valerie presented the club with the fee of \$6.90 for shipping and confirmation of cookbook materials. Motions were made and approved to reimburse the \$6.90 fee to Valerie.

Fair issues were discussed and Williamsburg, KY Dollar store, would like a picture of the donations given by them, and how they were used, so they can use this for advertising.

Sheila notified everyone that Jelly Bellies are made from beeswax and has checked the website for more information on them and that the club would like donations as advertising. Sheila would also like the children's booth to be decorated with the Bee Movie theme and to purchase the movie to play for the children. Sheila's mom has received a case of honey-bees from the bee movie to give out. The fair theme this year will be pollination.

The bee classes are set with speakers. Mary Lou Sesko has put a blog on her website about LCBA. The LCBA website needs to be promoted to new members. Denzil proposed that new signs be made for meetings. Spencer's Signs and Graphics in Wakeman will make signs. Sheila will call and order and Bob will pick them up. Motions were made to order and pay for the signs and approved by all.

Field Day speaker will be Kim Flottum. There will be hive evaluations, and volunteers are needed to take notes and to evaluate the hives. There will be several hives per group to evaluate for strength of the hive coming out of winter, spring build up, is using pollen substitute beneficial, and the use of Bee boost. The study is being done for LCBA research and to help educate members. There will be two children classes being taught by Ginny Dilley. Volunteers are needed in the area of candle dipping and overseeing the food. Valerie will put together the Field Day flier.

Valerie mentioned making Sheila St. Clair's mom an honorary member of LCBA and presenting her with a certificate.

Motions were placed and all approved. Jim Toole will make the certificate and Chris Lyons will make a letter of Thanks for all she has done and announcing her honorary membership.

Continued on page....5

## QUEEN RIGHT COLONIES

QRC is again selling package bees.

NWC - 2# - \$62.00

NWC - 3# - \$72.00

Italian - 2# - \$62.00

Italian - 3# - \$72.00

These are California packages and at present, do not run as much risk of having SHB and AHB.

Unlike packages from some package producers, #2 packages are sold as a 2# package, interpretation, when you order a #2 package it means number 2 not 2 pounds of bees and the same is said for their number 3 does not mean 3 pounds of bees.

Queen Right Colonies - (440)647-2602

Denzil St. Clair

43655 St. Rt. 162

Spencer, Ohio 44275

QRCstclair@midviewinternet.com

www.queenrightcolonies.com



Paid advertisement

## BACK TO BASIC BEEKEEPING 101

What I am about to say is basic beekeeping information, so nothing new here, and I am afraid it will fall on deaf ears as it has in the past. The health of our bees depends on us and our beekeeping practices. The number of beekeepers who are still treating bees with the same miticides without rotating products is surprising. The reason why never varies, "it's still working". The number of beekeepers who still arbitrarily treat for mite's year in and year out spring and fall may surprise most folks, but not me. I cannot recount the number of times I have asked do you have Varroa and the answer at least 50% of the time is "haven't looked, don't know, not sure" these answers will be followed by, then why are you treating? Most people answer with their concern about not wanting their bees to die, as the reason for the arbitrary treatment, when in fact the treatment may be the cause for their demise.

I find the results of the Entomological Society of America meeting held in December and attended by Kim Flottum and the results published in Bee Culture Feb. issue the most disturbing information I have (ever) read about beekeeping "The next speaker talked about some of the tests initially run on suspected CCD colonies taking samples of comb, beebread, trapped pollen, beeswax, brood, nectar, adult bees and royal jelly to analyze for what's-in-it". "Up to 17 pesticides" "All told there were 43 different pesticides found". Pesticides were found in wax, pollen (17 different ones) among these of course would be fluvalinate (apistan), coumophos (Checkmite), and these last two are under our direct control, meaning we are responsible for this contamination.

In 2007 I watched a plane fly repeatedly over the end of my property tree top level with the sprays extended from each wing just flowing with some sort of chemical, spraying who knows what. I stood defiantly in the middle of my bee yard, arms crossed, glaring defiantly, daring the pilot to fly over my bee yard, mentally contemplating, should I go get old Betsy? Let me put this in perspective, the year before I had lost 160 colonies and had just replaced about 100 of them that spring and they looked great, now this!

We are willing to get all up in arms when someone else is sprinkling fairy dust on our bees, but where is the outrage when we are the culprit. If we cannot monitor our own beekeeping practices maybe it is time to have someone do it for us. If the legal authorities want to monitor our processing practices, we are outraged. Now is the time to act lest someone imposes their ideas and practices on us.

We may not be able to control the entire environment that is involved in our little world of beekeeping, but lets face the facts, many chemicals we use on a regular basis can controlled on how and when to use, or not to use various products.

Its time we took a fresh look at IPM methods and actually used them, screen bottoms, drone comb, powdered sugar to make bees groom themselves, SMR queens if there is such a thing, some of the more mild or labor intensive chemicals such as sucricide. As I look at the number of chemicals available in the various catalogs for treatment of mites, beetles, diseases; in one catalog alone, I saw at least 13 different products you can spray on, apply to, smoke with, feed to, and shake on. IPM methods may not be practical in large or even medium size operations, but this is a small segment of beekeeping. Most beekeepers can integrate IPM methods into their own practices if there is a desire!

This is the worst possible news I could have received about honeybees and beekeeping. We are gradually losing our status of honey being a wholesome healthy food. If this information were to make it into the public sector, no one would buy honey.

This is really depressing, Thanks to Kim's information I needed to hear, but really did not want to hear.

Submitted by: Denzil St. Clair

Sometimes the world seems on the edge of insanity, and one wonders what limit there can be to greed, aggression, deception and the thirst for power or fame. When reflections of this sort threaten one's serenity, one can be glad for the bees for the riches they yield to the spirit of those who love nature and feel the kinship with everything that creeps and swims and flies, that spins and builds, to all living things that arise and perish, to the whole of creation of which we are only a part, like the bees.

The Joys of Beekeeping, 1974

Submitted by: Bonnie Pierson

LCBA Club Meeting at Oberlin United Methodist Church  
March 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Bob Hooker welcomes everyone to the meeting. Bob opened the meeting with a few announcements. The beginner beekeeping classes began March 7 and even with the snowstorm that night approximately 25 new beekeepers attended the class. This shows that they are either very dedicated or like everyone says about beekeepers, they are crazy. Bob introduced the executive members to the new beekeepers. There were also a few raffles for the night. The 50/50, the hive raffle, which will be held on Field Day, and a raffle for "The Hive and the Honeybee" book that Queen Right had donated. Other announcements for the night were that the cookbook has been sent to the printers and hopefully will be ready to sell by Field Day.

There will be break out sessions at the next few regular club meetings, with the first session being infused honey on April 11, with Connie Williams being the speaker.

Connie Williams also announced to all members that there is a cooking event each month with a different theme and members are encouraged to bring in their recipes to share with all. April's theme is a meatless dish.

It is time to order packaged bees.

The second session for the beginner beekeepers class took place with Jim Toole as the speaker, and the regular meeting took place in separate area with new products as the topic. Tom Roth brought in some of his homemade beekeeping projects.

The raffles were drawn at the end of both sessions and the meeting adjourned around 9:30.

Submitted by: Chris Lyons

Editor's note: Some items may have been omitted due to being mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter.

### President's Notes continued from page....1

The cookbook has gone to the printers and hopefully will be ready by Field Day. Valerie, thanks for all your work getting it together. Those of you not on the committee won't know this, but she almost single handedly did the final compilation of the materials and got them sent in, so give her a hardy THANK YOU the next time you see her. This gives me one more chance to thank all you who contribute so much in big and little ways to make our club successful. Happily I'm counting my blessings, good friends, good club, good bees, warming weather. Doesn't get much better than that.

Bob Hooker

### Feb. exec min. continued from page....3

The Bee Cloak is possibly going to be attempted again sometime in October of this year. A press release will be sent out approximately a week before event. For this event, many swarms will be needed. Guinness Book will also be notified of the attempt to break the world record.

A Queen rearing project is tentatively scheduled for sometime after June 9, 2008. The best time for this event is during swarm season. It will begin on a Thursday with cell builder and Saturday will be grafting. The event is planned on being held at Bob Hooker's bee yard on Gifford Road.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Submitted by: Chris Lyons

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some items may have been omitted due to being mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter.

## GEORGIA PACKAGE BEES

Approximate delivery date of April 21

3# package w/Italian Queen - \$71.00 ea.

4# packages w/Italian Queens - \$80.00 ea.

3# packages w/Russian Hybrid Queens - \$75.00 ea.

4# packages w/Russian Hybrid Queens - \$84.00 ea.

Italian, Queens only - \$15.00 ea.

Russian Hybrid, Queens only - \$19.00 ea.

Packages ordered and paid for by March 30, 2008 will be \$3.00 off per package.

Queens ordered and paid for by March 30, 2008 \$1.00 off per queen

**Tom Jefferies** - Phone # 1-440-236-5994 (Best way )

Email: tjffhwb@aol.com

Snail mail 24564 Squire Road

Columbia Station, Ohio 44028

Or in person at a meeting

Thank you; Tom J



Paid advertisement

**50/50  
RAFFLE**

# **LCBA 13th Annual FIELD DAY**

**2 COLONIES  
IN NEW QUIPMENT  
TO BE RAFFLED**

**Date: May 3rd 2008 - 10:00 a.m.**  
**(Tentative rain date May 10th)**

**COFFEE & DONUTS WILL BE SERVED**

- **10:00 Introduction & Itinerary**  
Denzil St. Clair & Bob Hooker
- **10:30 Race Evaluation**  
Speaker: Kim Flottum
- **12:00 - Lunch for a donation**
- **1:00 or 1:30 - Break out field sessions**
- **Race evaluation in a colony**
- **Pollen substitute evaluation**
- **OTHER BREAK OUT SESSIONS TO BE ADDED.**
- **VISIT LCBA WEB SITE FREQUENTLY FOR POSSIBLE UPDATES**

**BUFFET STYLE LUNCH FOR A DONATION**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT**

**LORAIN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

- **HAY RIDES WITH A TEAM OF DRAFT HORSES**
- **CANDLE DIPPING**
- **SHEEP SHEARING**
- **SHEEP HERDING DEMONSTRATION**
- **HORSE RIDES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 80 POUNDS**
- **SMALL PETTING ZOO**
- **SEE SHEEP, FALLOW DEER, GOATS, MINIATURE HORSES, REPTILES, KENNELS**
- **THE LARGEST FLOCK OF WHITE HOMING PIGEONS YOU WILL EVER SEE**
- **TOUR THE AMISH HOUSE**



**NO USED HIVE TOOLS      HELMETS &  
**OR GLOVES PERMITTED    VEILS A MUST****

**THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HOME APIARY OF  
DENZIL ST. CLAIR - 43655 ST. RT. 162, SPENCER OH. MAPQUEST WILL GET YOU  
DIRECTIONS. IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED OR WEATHER QUESTIONABLE,  
CONTACT DENZIL AT 440-647-2602**

**Visit L.C.B.A. on the web at [www.loraincountybeekeepers.org](http://www.loraincountybeekeepers.org)**

### The BUZZZZ Advertising Fees

Members can place a maximum of four lines such as the ads above (approximately 3/4 inch by 3/4 quarter inch) for free on a one time basis. If the same ads are placed for more than a month, there will be a fee for placing the ads. There will also be a fee if ads are larger than the size listed above. Rates for ads are as follows:

**Full page ad as separate insert in newsletter** (customer provided) \$25.00 monthly/\$30.00 if double sided. **The printer also charges a fee of \$30 to place in newsletter before folding.**

#### Ads as a page on newsletter

Provided by customer-No set up fee charged

Full page-\$25.00 Monthly

1/2 page ad-\$18.00

1/4 page ad-\$12.00

1/8 page ad-\$10.00

Provided by LCBA-

Full page ad- \$25.00 monthly/\$15.00 setup fee

1/2 page ad- \$18.00 monthly/\$12.00 setup fee

1/4 page ad- \$12.00 monthly/\$10.00 setup fee

1/8 page ad- \$10.00 monthly/\$5.00 setup fee

Ads for members larger than four lines listed above or placed for more than one month, will be based on above rates.

**If any questions, call or e-mail newsletter editor. Number & e-mail listed on front page.**



### GET THESE BEES

I recently had a call from a gentleman who has a colony in his granary in Erie county. They have been there for quite some time. He has young children and also wants to use the granary to store hay this summer. If you would be interested in getting these bees, please give him a call.

Otto 419-684-5719

### OHIO QUEEN PROJECT

General information about the queen class:

The class is divided into 3 sessions.

The dates are May 29, 31 and June 9 from 1:00 p.m. until finished. (about 2 hours)

There will be both classroom and field sessions on the 29th and 31st.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> you will need to bring a nucleus colony in which to transport ripe queen cells home.

We will be performing various manipulations according to the "Queen's Biological Schedule". When raising queens, the various manipulations must take place on specific days, therefore our schedule. This is not like a cooking class where each step has already been done.

If you are an OSBA member there is no charge. If you are not a current OSBA member, there will be a \$20.00 charge for the class and a 1-year membership to OSBA is included. All of the grafting materials and manual will be provided.

Brian Neuman www.dewbeehoney.com

1/1/2008 Through 3/25/2008

#### Income:

50/50 Raffle - Unassigned 82.00

Advertisement : Newsletter 36.00

Bank Verification 0.15

Bee Classes - Unassigned 1,050.00

Donations : Individual 67.00

Membership : Dues 1,338.24

Savings Interest 8.35

**Total Income 2,581.74**

#### Expenses:

501C3 - Unassigned 750.00

Advertising : Advertising 36.00

Bills : Corporation Fee 50.00

Bills : Insurance 500.00

Buzz Newsletter : Postage 194.91

Buzz Newsletter : Printing 535.59

Charitable Donations - Unassigned 115.00

Cook Books 1,018.50

County Fair : Assoc. Entry 350.00

Entertainment : Food 28.34

Gift : Thank You 91.58

Prizes : Baking Contest 40.78

Supplies : Office 68.12

Supplies : Postage 9.60

Supplies : Tickets 36.27

Web Site : Quarterly Fee 29.85

**Total Expenses 3,854.54**

**Income less Expenses (1,272.80)**

#### Account Balances As of 3/25/2008

Account Total

#### Assets:

Lorain National Bank Savings 13,688.26

Lorain National Bank Checking 844.46

Petty Cash 178.22

**Total Assets 14,710.94**

#### Liabilities:

Building Fund 4,810.56

**Total Liabilities 4,810.56**

**Net Worth 9,900.38**

Submitted by: Dave Williams



## PLANNING NEW SPRING PLANTINGS

If you are anything like me, you're already looking at plant catalogs! Thinking and planning your summer veggie garden or new herb garden on a cold winters day can be fun.

Keep in mind plants that keep the bees in your yard. The bees really love herbs, such as LAVENDER, HYSSOP, BASILS (they really love cinnamon basil), MINTS and THYMES.

Since there are over 400 varieties of Thyme, I'm pretty sure you can find one you like. The Upright varieties are most used for culinary purposes, but all Thyme is edible. The creeping Thyme is grown as a ground cover, and the bees just love it! The bees love Lavender too, but if your planting it in the garden for year round use, make sure it is the Hardy variety! The tender varieties are nice too, but must come inside in the winter.

Lots of Mints to choose from, Banana Mint, Chocolate Mint, Spearmint, Lime Mint, Orange Mint and of course Peppermint! Again the bees will love you for planting plenty of this culinary, medicinal and ornamental favorite!

Basils are great for planting and making pesto with, however, I have trouble with Japanese beetles on my pretty basil leaves. The bees really do love the flowers of the basil plants. I try and keep mine pinched back to keep them from flowering as long as possible so that I can keep enjoying a fresh harvest of leaves for summer sandwiches, salads and pesto.

This year I thought that our place needs more shrubs. There is a reason for this, so many of the bushes attract bees when they are flowering, and feed the birds with berries later in the year, and they are pretty to boot! Who could ask for more? I know the Holly bushes are great for attracting bees and birds, but make sure you have a male Holly and a female Holly bush or bushes. Only the female Holly bush produces berries and must have the male Holly near. I'm thinking of planting Grape Mahonia Shrubs this year, because it also flowers greatly and produces bunches of grape-like berries. Also the Viburnum Bush may need a closer look. It also has lots of sweet (depending on variety) smelling blossoms, and then later has red to black berries or fruit. Lots to think about, not only how the plant is pleasing to my eye, but how many of God's little creatures will it feed and shelter too! Happy gardening!

*Connie Williams*