

# SWEET TALK

The newsletter of the Greene County Beekeepers Association

## BEE Aware-- Odds and Ends:

*Bill Starrett*

Now that April has arrived hives that have survived the winter are busy raising brood to increase their population for the primary honey flow just a month away. The bees will double their population several times over the next month and that requires significant food reserves remaining or they must be fed. Many colonies perish at this time of year because they run out of food after surviving the winter, a product of beekeeper mismanagement. Fresh pollen is readily available but new nectar is in short supply if available at all as cold as it has been. When daytime temperatures are in the 60s a 1 to 1 sugar syrup will stimulate brood rearing but won't put too much moisture into the hive.

By the time May arrives we will be into the swarm season. Providing unrestricted brood nest area prevents congestion in the brood nest, a swarm triggering condition. When new nectar begins to be collected it is time to provide adequate honey super area for the bees to cure and store the new nectar. Failure to do so virtually guarantees causing a swarm. It's easier to prevent a swarm with plenty of room than it is to stop the swarm impulse once the bees begin swarm preparations. Most beekeepers are hobbyists who may not want to increase the number of colonies they have, so a simple method to stop the swarm impulse once the bees begin swarm cells is needed.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## The Place to Bee on

**Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Welcome (7:00 – 7:05)**

Welcome all members, especially new members

**GCBA Business: (7:05 – 7:10)**

Volunteer lists—Refreshments (most important!)

Updates

Spring Clinic

Updates from Outreach (7:10 – 7:15)

OSBA– Terry

4-H– Dan

**“Bee- U” Practical beekeeping sessions (7:15-7:45)**

Swarm Control:

**Refreshment Break (8:00 – 8:10)**

**Speaker::** Macy Reynolds

**Topic:** Native Plants for Pollinators

Door prize drawing and Wrap-up

## GCBA 2015 Board Members:

President:	Dan O'Callaghan
Vice-President:	Chuck Roach
Secretary:	Patti Procuniar
Treasurer:	Tom Davidson
Communications:	Terry Lieberman-Smith
Webmaster:	Dan O'Callaghan
At-Large:	Sam Bernard—Fran Davidson—Carol Locker
Past President	Dave Foubert

## President's Letter

Last Minute Reminder !!!NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE!!! – Spring Clinic is 12:00 PM (Noon) Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Russ Nature Reserve on Kemp Road, Beaver creek.

Despite the weather's best attempt at keeping us confined to the dry indoors, it really is April, and the beekeeper's busy season is well underway. Hives need to be regularly inspected and monitored for a successful season. Are your bees healthy? Overwintered hive population is rapidly increasing—do they have enough honey and pollen to support the brood? Do you need to feed? How does the queen's laying pattern look? Where is the colony located in the hive? Packages are, or soon will be, delivered and ready to be installed—is your equipment ready? Swarm season is here—are you monitoring colonies for crowding and queen cups? If you plan to collect swarms, do you have spare hive boxes? Bee foragers are collecting pollen and nectar—what is blooming? Has the "Honey flow" started yet? Are your supers ready? Do you know what to check? How to check? Have questions?

The next Greene County Beekeepers Association meeting is Tuesday, April 21st at 7pm, and is a great place to bolster your beekeeping know-how! We will kick-off the meeting with open beekeeping Q&A, and our "Bee-Short" session will cover a very timely topic—swarming and (attempts at?) swarm control methods.

In the most recent issue of Bee Culture magazine, there is a promotion for an October Conference called "The Four Pillars of Honey Bee Management" to be held in Medina, OH. Their four pillars are *Nutrition, Honey, Varroa, and Winter*. I agree that these are absolutely the critical support topics for today's beekeeper. Per the conference description, "*Nutrition has become the least understood aspect of producing*

*healthy bees.*" While this is a pretty strong statement, it is also a factual one. Loss of habitat, especially nutritious nectar and pollen pasture, has been implicated in nearly every recent scientific study on the problems plaguing our bees and the host of native pollinators nationwide.

In our April meeting, our guest speaker is Master Gardener Macy Reynolds. She will present a topic that is crucial to reversing this nutritional deficiency, fostering "Native Plants for Pollinators". This is a topic that has been requested by many of our members over the last few years, and we are grateful that Macy has agreed to share her expertise with our members.

Initial reports from the Greene County Extension Office are that there are three 4-H members enrolled in the first year beekeeping project, and 5 members re-enrolled in the Beginning Beekeeping project—all 5 of the returning members have been past recipients of GCBA sponsorship, and most actively attend our meetings. This is the largest 4-H enrollment in the project for Greene County in some time (or ever as long as I have been involved). The GCBA has traditionally provided 1<sup>st</sup> year 4-H beekeepers with a complete hive set-up as part of our sponsorship activities, and are doing so again this year. We also sponsor the "trophy" at the Fair. With this many returning members, I am looking for suggestions for supporting returning members, and also would recommend adding a second award for Fair (maybe Junior/Senior divisions). If anyone has any experience or ideas for this, please let me know.

A reminder--the GCBA is YOUR local association—please be actively involved, and let us know what we can do to make the GCBA an effective and valuable resource for YOU!

Dan O'Callaghan

### Spring Clinic: April 18th at Noon— Russ Nature Reserve

Come and support your association, and help educate the general public. Bill Starrett, with help from the Beekeeping 101 class, will be demonstrating Spring Beekeeping activities to the general public. Will include the installation of a package of bees. This is a weather dependent activity so rain will cancel the event. You can help as a Bee-Plomat by answering questions and handing out club materials.

The fun starts at noon at Russ Nature Reserve, 2380 Kemp Road

## GCBA Meeting Minutes for 3/17/15

Count: 73 people

Dan O'Callaghan opened the meeting and requested that new attendees introduce themselves. He also announced the swarm list was out and advised that members must sign up before 3/18.

Dan asked if anyone was willing to set up an information table on beekeeping at Possum Creek on April 28 from 1-4 p.m.

Carol Locker gave a presentation on hiving a new bee package.

Snack break: Snacks provided by Jean Doe, Bob Rowland. Lennis & Jane Brown provided beverages

Bill Starrett advised What to do in and for your hives in the Spring.

Main Points:

- Feed sugar syrup to stimulate brood rearing, 2:1 feeds without extra moisture
- Most of honey crop comes in May. Nectar flow coincides with honey flow
- Switch boxes to deter swarming
- For a crowded hive take out a frame or two of sealed brood and place in a weaker hive
- Have a young queen in the spring.
- Swarm cells? Make a nuke with frames of brood & bees containing swarm cells or destroy all swarm cells in the parent colony
- Put honey supers on **before** the bees need them

Meeting Adjourned at 9 p.m.

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### Apiary Visits:

The **Apiary Visits** have been scheduled. Updates or weather cancellations will be posted on the GCBA Facebook page.

April 15:

2:00 @ Karl Schmidt 3215 Bone Rd. Jamestown, 45335

April 19:

11:00 @ Randy Smith 1720 river Ridge Dr. Spring Valley 45370

1:00 @ Colleen Crafton 3805 Lytle Rd. Waynesville 45068

April 25:

Noon: Bill Starrett: Russ Nature Reserve 2380 Kemp Rd. Beaver creek

3:00 @ Paul Cronley 9820 Centerville 45458

May 2

11:00@ Marianne Bishop 4981 Arabian Dr. Fairborn, 45324

2:00 @ Dave Foubert 1525 President St. Yellow Springs 45387

May 9

11:00 @ Tom & Fran Davidson 10131 W. National Rd. 45344

## What's Bloomin'



**Nectar:** Mustards

**Pollen:** Poplars, Willows, Maples, Oak, Cedar, Junipers, Dandelions

**Pollen and Nectar:** Apple Trees, Chickweed, Hackberry Trees, Dandelion, Redbud Trees

The real feast begins next month!

## Treasurer's Report

Balance 2/25/15	\$ 4123.29
3/6 Check 1132 raffle items	82.14
3/19 Deposit Dues	340.00
4/2 Check 1133 4 H hives	314.47
Balance 4/2/2015	\$4066.68

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## Basic Buzz in the Beeyard

### April

- Monitor colony stores, esp. if weather is cold & wet.
- Inspect brood nest for laying queen, disease, etc
- Introduce package bees on drawn combs.
- Requeen colonies with failing queens.
- Reverse brood chambers when weather moderates.
- Add supers to strong colonies at maple or dandelion bloom.
- Unite weak colonies.
- ◆ Equalize strength of all colonies.

### May —"Spring is Busting out All Over"

- Monitor colonies for queen cells.
- Control swarming.
- Add more supers as needed (oversuper).
- Place queen excluder below shallow super on colonies for comb honey.
- Install packages on foundation.
- Split strong colonies.
- Capture swarms.
- Cull and replace defective combs with full sheets of foundation.
- Begin implementing an IPM program for the control of mites.
- Add room for bees, either by honey supers, or deeps - remember the 7/10 rule - when they have filled 7 of the 10 frames, its time to add space!

**Bee Aware** (Continued from page 1)

Stopping the swarm impulse once queen cells are started always requires additional equipment and nearly always requires destroying all the queen cells, a time consuming task. The least amount of additional equipment needed for this purpose without creating another colony is the shook swarm method, a technique usually associated with producing comb honey. A super (any size but preferably a brood box size) of frames of foundation is put on the bottom board of the hive constructing swarm cells. A queen excluder then honey supers (comb or foundation) are put on top. Then all the bees and queen are shaken onto the ground in front of the new arrangement from each frame of the hive so they can march into the hive on the parent hive location. All queen cells must be destroyed during this process which should be easy without bees on the combs. As the bees are shaken from each frame the frame can be put into a box that has been put on top the new arrangement until all the brood combs are back in place in their original order. That should stop the swarm impulse but close monitoring is advisable.

What is accomplished by this technique? A box of new brood combs. Swarming is averted as the swarm cells are destroyed and the new brood nest is under construction as the bees turn their attention to creating comb in which the queen can begin laying eggs. The population will continue to increase as the brood in the original brood nest emerges but the population expansion is retarded while no comb is available in which the queen can lay eggs. Without new brood to feed the nurse bees join the foraging force and all the incoming nectar is cured and stored in the boxes above the queen excluder. The new brood combs can be used to replace old or imperfect ones.

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### Made at Home—The Recipe Corner :

#### Honey Ginger BBQ Sauce

1 1/4 c. cider vinegar  
 1/2 c. honey  
 1/2 c. ketchup  
 2 T hot sauce

4 garlic cloves, minced  
 2 T. fresh minced ginger



Stir together in a saucepan. Do not cover.

Bring to a simmer and cook until thickened. Stir occasionally.

Consider adding more hot sauce, or worcestershire, or soy sauce to customize it to your liking.

## Staying Ahead in the Hive



### APRIL

18 Sat Spring Clinic– Russ Nature Center = Noon  
21 Tue GCBA Meeting– Guest Speaker: Macy Reynolds

### MAY

19 Tues GCBA Meeting–

### Remember to register your hives:

[http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public\\_docs/forms/plant/Plnt\\_4201-002.pdf](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public_docs/forms/plant/Plnt_4201-002.pdf)

### The Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry (OSCR)

Pesticide drift from target areas may damage sensitive crops and organisms such as honeybees, grapes, straw-berries, tomatoes and broadleaf vegetables. Communication between beekeepers, producers and pesticide applicators is critical to avoid personal/property damage while allowing target crops to benefit from applied pesticides. The Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry (OSCR) is a voluntary informational tool designed to allow stakeholders an effective way to communicate and protect organic crops, pesticide-sensitive crops and apiaries. OSCR was developed and is operated by the Ohio

Department of Agriculture's Pesticide & Fertilizer Regulation section, which trains and licenses over 30,000 pesticide applicators and more than 13,000 pesticide products operating in the state of Ohio.

Registered apiarists and organic and pesticide-sensitive crop producers have the ability to draw their locations on an online map and share them with other registered users. Licensed pesticide applicators in the state of Ohio, such as farmers spraying their crops or ODOT crews applying roadside herbicides, can log-in to the system and search the map for sensitive areas nearby. Apiaries in particular can be difficult for pesticide applicators to spot and avoid. Although beekeepers must post their contact information in every apiary, OSCR can be used in addition to these postings to help applicators locate apiaries and contact the

beekeepers before spraying.

To help ensure the highest-quality data for pesticide spray planning, the Ohio Department of Agriculture verifies each user registration request and each crop location submission before the data is entered into the Registry. Due to this verification process, OSCR is currently designed for use by commercial agricultural entities only; homeowners with private gardens, landscaping along roadways and community areas are not eligible to use the OSCR system. Only apiarists and those who produce crops for sale will be approved to enter data into the system. This level of quality control is designed to allow for the continued success of OSCR and the optimal use of pesticides in Ohio.

Users can register for an account online through the OSCR website. Paper enrollment forms will be made available to those without internet access who also wish to register. These forms can be acquired by contacting ODA at 614-728-6386, or the local OSU Extension office. OSCR can be accessed directly via this address: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/scr>

For more information, visit the OSCR website or contact Jared Shaffer at:

Attention: Sensitive Crop Registry  
Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Pesticide & Fertilizer Regulation  
8995 E. Main Street, Bldg. 23  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-3399  
Phone: 614-728-6386