

# SWEET TALK

The newsletter of the Greene County Beekeepers Association

## BEE Aware-- Odds and Ends:

*Bill Starrett*

.Now that October has arrived 50 degree temperatures are common during nights and with increasing frequency as day time highs. Why is that notable for beekeepers? Because bees cluster whenever temperatures drop below about 55 degrees. Clustered bees are not able to keep hive intruders out so mice can become a problem if they get inside a hive since they destroy comb building nests, defecate, and make a general mess.

Entrance guards of various designs help keep mice out as well as reduce cold drafts. The wooden entrance reducer does both but mice have been known to enlarge the slot and gain entrance. One way to reduce that risk is to staple a piece of aluminum coil to the wooden reducer. It is also best to put the wooden reducer in with the slot up so dead bees don't block the entrance.

Another option is to staple #2 hardware cloth (1/2") across the entrance. That won't block cold drafts but a wooden entrance reducer behind it will keep drafts to a minimum. Not all bottom boards provide the same width entrance so a fixed length piece of hardware cloth may leave a large enough gap at one end to allow a mouse in. Two pieces of hardware cloth more than half the width of the entrance stapled so they overlap in the center works for any width entrance. Some bee supply companies provide a galvanized entrance reducer that is held in place by clips that are nailed to the super. Whatever type is used they need to be in place by now.

## The Place to Bee on

**Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

### Agenda

October 18, 2016

Meeting Call to Order  
Welcome and New Member Introduction  
Overview and Free Raffle Tickets

### Reports

4-H  
OSBA  
Area Reports

### Announcements

Business Meeting: Officer Nominations  
Questions/Concerns

### Refreshments

Main Speaker: Michele Colopy

Topic: Solarizing your Landscape

### Raffle and Adjourn

**This month's meeting is in the Buckeye Room at the Greene County Extension Office— behind the grandstands at the Greene County Fairgrounds on Fairground Road**

## President's Letter

This next meeting is important to our club. We have enjoyed a tremendous year of learning and it has been fun. Our new beekeepers are more confident in working their bees, the "old heads" are also learning something at every meeting and we really enjoy talking to each other and finding out how other apiaries are doing. It is election time for officers to serve next year. We have been without a Secretary this past year and this is a key position where we need help. I appreciate all the help you have done by volunteering at our events and helping during the meetings to put up chairs and tables, providing the refreshments and just generally being willing. Please consider donating some time and volunteering for a leadership position for next year. Thank you for letting me serve as your President, but I need some more help.

We will be holding nominations for all officer and board positions .

**News Flash 2!** We will be meeting in the Buckeye Room at the Greene County Extension Office for our October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The building is located behind the grandstands at the Greene County Fairgrounds on Fairground Road in Xenia. Please mark your calendars for this venue change for October 18<sup>th</sup>. November 15<sup>th</sup> we will be back in our normal place on Ledbetter Road.

**Next Meeting:** Michele Colopy, Solarizing Your Landscape

On the farm: This year I am trying to collect some goldenrod honey. A friend of mine has fall allergies and we are

going to try and see if a steady diet of this year's honey will give him some relief. I have never collected honey this late and I am finding that it is challenging. The supers I placed are filling but none are capped. With this cool, wet weather, I wonder how long it will take to before they can get the moisture out of it?!

We continue to prepare the hives for winter. As problems develop, immediate action is required, because the time left for the hive to recover/normalize after combining is very short now.

Use caution when inspecting your hives. Temperatures are now cold enough at times to kill open brood. I personally use 70 degrees as a cutoff for full inspections. Often you can see a section of brood by removing the outside frame (which is usually honey) and sliding the other frames. If you see some brood by looking down the frame while it remains in the hive, stop and do not lift it out. You have a queen! Further inspection than just seeing the brood at this late date in cold weather is not really required.

Thanks. See you October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Dave Allen**

## A Call for Halloween Candy!

Greene County Parks and Trails is participating in the annual Trunk or Treat event again this year and have a need for candy donations. If you are able to donate, please bring individually wrapped candy (keeping choking hazards in mind) to their office by October 21<sup>st</sup>. Why not bring the candy at the next club meeting and we'll make sure it gets to the Parks and Trails office!



## GCBA 2016 Board Members:

President:	Dave Allen
Vice-President:	Dave Foubert
Secretary:	
Treasurer:	Tom Davidson
Communications:	Terry Lieberman-Smith
Webmaster:	Dan O'Callaghan
At-Large:	Fran Davidson, Jeannie Doe, Joe Valentour, Sam Bernard
Past President	Dan O'Callaghan

## What's Bloomin'

**Nectar & Pollen:** Redbeckia hirta, R. triloba, R. fulgida, Bachelor Buttons Thistles, Tickseeds, Goldenrods, Fall Asters, Buckwheat

**Nectar:** Mountain Mints



## Treasurer's Report

Checking balance 1 Oct 2016	\$4277.48
Check #1098 Speaker	100.00
Deposit Festival sales	31.40
Cash on hand	<u>92.01</u>
Total Assets	<b>\$4300.89</b>

## Basic Buzz in the Beeyard

### October

- Prepare colonies for winter
- Begin fall feeding with heavy syrup, if needed
- Unite weak colonies with stronger colonies
- Put on entrance reducers to keep out vermin

### November

- Inventory your equipment— make a checklist for what you'll need next year
- Develop & implement your honey marketing program, especially for the holiday season
- Begin late-fall feeding
- Make yourself a reminder about the 2 local conferences in March!



## OSBA Fall Conference— *Bee There!* November 5, 2016

This year's OSBA Fall Conference at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City OH will be another record-setting event. Guest speakers include:

Jamie Ellis  
Steve Repasky  
Reed Johnson  
Alex Zomchek  
Christie Welch  
And others....

Check out the OSBA website for the growing list of vendors. Current list includes Bee-Pothecary, Betterbee, Brushy Mountain Bee Supply Dadant, Blue Sky Bee Supply, Kelley Bee Supply, Mann Lake, Reid's Apiary & Bee-tiqu, Simpson's Bee Supply, and Mel Disselkoen.

If you pre-order your beekeeping supplies, vendors will bring them to the conference and you will save \$\$\$ on shipping and handling.

Get your honey entries ready for our every popular Honey Judging Contest, judged by Jim Thompson. See Fall Registration packet for details.

Reed Johnson's students will be testing bees for varroa and nosema. See registration for details.

For more information, visit [www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/2016-osba-fall-conference/](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/2016-osba-fall-conference/)

## GCBA at the Beavercreek Heritage Day Festival:

Thanks to GCBA members Bill Starrett, Karen Lovelace, Don and Maureen Kocarek, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Allen Gilbar, Dave and Janet Allen, and Brian and Rachel Boyd for volunteering to staff the GCBA table at the Beavercreek Heritage Day Festival.

Before the winds rains came to wash out the event, GCBA members had the opportunity to share lots of beekeeping information with the enthusiastic visitors who stopped by our tent.

Thank you volunteers for supporting club activities and helping to educate the public.

*GCBA Member Bill Starrett talking with festival visitors. Maureen Kocarek in the background*



## Seasonal Resource Page

### Robber Screens:

- <http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/files/147611.pdf>
- <http://www.beeworks.com/forum/viewtopic.php?p=40>
- <http://cookevillebeekeepers.com/06/how-to-make-a-simple-robber-screen>

### Not Sure What Robbing Looks Like?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vOfn2Nj4JY>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pT9bofzyZa0>

### Yellow Jacket Traps....lots of choices:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiTggZSLjpE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqMBIEqOI2I>
- <http://tipnut.com/wasp-trap/> lots of choices

### Getting ready for winter:

#### Home-Made version of Honey Bee Healthy (adapted from Beesource)

5 cups water  
2 ½ pounds of sugar  
15 drops spearmint oil  
15 drops lemongrass oil

Heat the water to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in the sugar until dissolved. Once the sugar water has cooled, add the essential oils. Stir until everything is evenly distributed.

This solution should have a strong scent and not be left open around bees.

Cool completely before using.

I store this concentrate in the fridge -label it so that your family doesn't drink it!!

Approx. dosage: 1 tsp per quart of 1:1 sugar syrup for feeding

#### Marshmallow Bee Fondant

3 bags (10.5 oz) marshmallows  
½ c. water  
4 pounds confectioners sugar

Put marshmallows in a microwave safe bowl. Bowl needs to be large because marshmallows will puff up and cause a mess if they overflow. Pour water over marshmallows. Microwave, 20 seconds at a time, until melted.

Carefully remove from microwave. Stir in powdered sugar. Once it is difficult to stir, turn out on cutting board or countertop that has been dusted with confectioner's sugar. Knead in remaining sugar.

Coat the fondant with a light layer of shortening to help keep it moist. Wrap in several layers of plastic wrap.

Look for sales of marshmallows at the end of the cookout season!

### Sugar Bricks

**Notes: Have candy mold prepared ahead of time. This stuff hardens quickly**

#### Directions:

- Bring 11 oz of water to full boil
- Add 1 T white vinegar
- Slowly add 1 five-pound bag of white sugar, **stirring all the time**
- Continue stirring until it reaches **242 degrees** .  
**Be careful with this hot mixture.**

Shovel the mixture into a candy board or mold that is lined with waxed paper (I used a jelly roll pan) and let sit to cool off. If you want to cut it into smaller pieces, do so **before** it cools completely.

The outside of the cooking container will cool down first and needs to be scraped out

For optional ingredients, or larger recipe, go to [www.mdasplitter.com/docs/candy.pdf](http://www.mdasplitter.com/docs/candy.pdf)