

# THE BEEHIVE

KEEPING LOCAL BEEKEEPERS INFORMED

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers

February

Volume 17, Issue 2

## Tri-County Beekeepers' Association Beekeeping Workshop

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Beekeeping Workshop in Wooster, Ohio is on Saturday, March 5, 2005. As in the past, it will be held in Fisher Auditorium and the Shisler Center at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC). It is located near ST. RT. 83 (Madison Ave.) just south of Wooster. Last year there were 650 people from around Ohio and neighboring states who participated in the workshop.

This year's program will have one keynote speaker and three workshop sessions. The three workshop sessions will have six different breakout topics for a total of 18 to choose from. One of the breakout topics in each of the three sessions will be a beginner beekeeping session. These sessions are designed to teach some of the very basics of beekeeping. Another breakout offered in each of the three workshop sessions will be a kids session. These are open to kids 5 – 12 years old and will offer a variety of bee related activities.

The workshop opens at 8:00 a.m. with registration from 8:00-9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:45 p.m. Registration is \$30.00, ages 17 and under are free.

Additional information and registration forms will be available at our next meeting.

Forms are also available online at:

<http://beelab.osu.edu/tcba/2005TCBAParticipantRegistrationPacket.pdf>

If you won't be at the meeting and would like the information contact me at 419-371-1742. - Tim

### Presidents Corner

Hello fellow beekeepers!

It was great to see such a large group of people at the January meeting. Our scheduled speaker, Dave Duncan, unfortunately had car trouble and was not able to make it

I am happy to announce that his car has been fixed and he has just today confirmed that he will be coming to our February 22nd meeting.

I will be selling 5 frame nucs in late April and early May. They will have New World Carniolan queens. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

Hope to see another big turnout at our February meeting.

Dwight



The Finn Hive, Patented in 1870. One of the many exhibits at the Bee Museum in Wooster, Ohio

### Hostess

February: Bob & Deborah Parsons, Justin Baker

March: Al Wischmeyer

April: Kathy Barfell

May: Tim & Dawn Arbeit

## Feeding Bees Pollen Substitutes

Honeybees derive their protein, vitamins, minerals and some carbohydrates from pollens. Since no single pollen source provides all their nutritional needs, honeybees must have a number of pollens available to them to remain healthy and to produce the royal jelly required to feed the queen and rear brood. When colony inspections reveal little or no pollen in the combs, or the anticipated weather is going to prohibit pollen foraging for more than a couple days, it is time to feed some pollen substitute. It also would be best to feed sugar syrup at the same time.



Pollen in February? Not quite. The 'pollen' on this bee's legs is pollen substitute.

The substance that most similarly mimics pollens in nutrition, and can be purchased at a reasonable cost, is brewer's yeast. Yeast can be fed to the bees dry, but they use it much better when it is fed as patties with a consistency similar to peanut butter. For beekeepers operating only a few colonies, the yeast is often mixed with fifty percent sucrose syrup. The patties are encased in waxed paper or in plastic bags to try to maintain the moisture. If patties get hard, the bees won't eat them. Beekeepers, who feed their colonies high fructose corn syrup, use that syrup to formulate patties that maintain their moisture well because of the attraction of moisture to fructose.

Other nutrients are sometimes added to pollen substitutes. When about ten percent pollen is added, we call the mixture "pollen supplement." Beekeepers tend to add casein, lactalbumin or soy flour to their mixtures. Watch out for lactose and over two percent salt (sodium chloride) with the casein and lactalbumin. And try to get the soy flour expeller processed (retains some lipids) and "toasted" (knocks out enzymes that interfere with honey bee digestion). The addition of a "feed yeast" (like *Torula*) to the mixture enhances the nutritional value of the substitute, but it increases the cost quite a bit, too.

Pollen substitutes will not generate brood production the way that sources of incoming pollens will. However, pollen substitute will prevent a total shut down of brood rearing if the weather turns bad for a long time. Pollen substitute will lead to "fatter" winter bees in areas (like the west) where pollen supplies are short in the late summer and fall. Fatter bees, with more stored nutrients, winter better and rear more brood the next spring than non-fed bees.

Bees do not find pollen substitutes particularly attractive. It must be placed directly in contact with the bees as close to the brood as possible. As long as the bees are bringing in a trickle of natural pollen, pollen substitute will be consumed. If no pollen is being brought in, the substitute will be ignored and will spoil over time.

Eric C. Mussen, Extension Apiculturist, UC Davis



When no other pollen is available, open feeding of pollen substitute in a 5 gallon bucket turned on its side with a brick to hold it down works well on a warm day. The bees will quickly ignore it once the first real pollen is available.

# Recipe Of The Month

Recipe courtesy the National  
Honey Board

## Blueberry Coffeecake

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen
- 1 Tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon peel
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 Tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda



Place blueberries in bottom of greased 9-inch round cake pan; distribute evenly. Sprinkle with flour; drizzle with honey and lemon juice. Set aside.

In a small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; set aside. In a medium bowl, combine honey, eggs, milk, lemon juice, lemon peel and vanilla; beat with fork until well mixed. Add flour mixture; mix well. Stir in melted butter; mix well. Pour batter over blueberries in pan; spread to cover evenly. Bake at 350°F for 30 to 35 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Invert cake onto large plate; cool.

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# NWOBA

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Membership is open to anyone interested in bee culture. Dues are \$6 per calendar year. This is a family membership. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings. Members are encouraged to submit articles to the editor for publishing.

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Pandora School, Pandora, Ohio. Time 7:30 p.m. Field trips and or picnic in June, July and August as announced in "The Beehive". No Meeting in December

The Associations' book and video library is free to be used by all members. Materials may be withdrawn from the librarian at the meeting and are to be returned at the next meeting.

"The Beehive", serving Northwest Ohio, is the official publication of the Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association.

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