



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Current events from the Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association and bee news in general

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Bee Conservation

The speaker at the July meeting was Lisza Christine, who gave an interesting discussion about honey bee conservation. Mrs. Christine had some unique perspectives to offer and unique opinions about bee health that are different than most beekeepers. Drawing from her years of experience in beekeeping and inspecting, Mrs. Christine expressed her opinion that bees are strongest when they are in an environment that most closely resembles their natural habitat. Mrs. Christine also expressed her feeling that many bee problems are inadvertently caused by the beekeeper going into the hive and thereby disrupting the daily activities of the colony.

Mrs. Christine also expressed opinions that most beekeepers have in common, such as the belief that honeybees are important and that there is a need to conserve the species. Even beekeepers with very diverse opinions can agree that honeybees are wonderful creatures!

Presented by Lisza Christine



Photo courtesy <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/honeybee>

ACBA Events at a glance

Next ACBA meeting:
ANNUAL PICNIC
 Saturday,
 September 16th,
 12pm @ East Park in
 Jefferson

Other Events:
 Ashtabula County
 Fair
 August 8-13

TIPS FOR NEWBEES:



Online videos can be a helpful resource

It seems like there is always more to learn about bees and how to keep them happy, healthy, and producing honey! Books are great resources of beekeeping knowledge, but there is also a wealth of good information on the internet for both the beginning and experienced beekeeper in the form of online video demonstrations. There is also a trash pile of poor or incorrect information on the internet, so always consider the source of the information and take everything you read on the internet with a grain of salt. Below is a list of links to videos that you may find helpful, all of which are from reputable sources.

- [University of Guelph: beekeeping basics and beyond](#)
- [Ohio State Beekeepers Association Training Program](#)
- [Identifying American Foulbrood](#)
- [Alcohol Wash for Mite Control](#)

Pest Problems: Varroa Mites

Varroa mites are one of the beekeeper's main enemies. Varroa have become so widespread throughout North America that it is almost unheard of to have a hive that does not contain at least some varroa mites. Varroa mites are a problem in themselves, but they also allow the hive to become infested with other secondary problems such as small hive beetle and Nosema. In addition, the level of mite infestation in a hive, which is commonly referred to as the mite load, can be indicative of the overall health of the colony.

For these and other reasons, it is important that beekeepers test their hives once a month from Spring through Fall to get a mite count. A mite count is the number of mites that were found during the test per 100 bees. The mite count is also sometimes expressed as a percentage. Mites within the hive increase as the summer progresses. Mite counts that indicate that treatment is necessary are roughly 3-4 in Spring, 6-9 in Summer and 9-12 in Fall. Some beekeepers simply treat if 5 or more mites are found per 100 bees.

There are different methods of testing for mites including the sugar shake method and the alcohol wash. Some tests, like the alcohol wash, do kill some of the bees but the impact on the hive is minimal, similar to a blood test in a person. The benefit of knowing the mite load and of giving the hive a better chance at survival greatly outweighs the impact of the test.

Most treatments for varroa can't be done when honey supers are on the hive, so they are usually performed in Spring or Fall, either before or after the honey flow. Testing for varroa should be done once a month from Spring through Fall. If you aren't already testing for varroa, now is a great time to start!

A demonstration of the alcohol wash method can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36oHVUI3INA>

A description of the sugar shake method can be found here: <https://www.perfectbee.com/blog/obtaining-and-assessing-varroa-mite-count/>

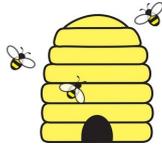
More information about varroa mites can be found here: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>



Photo courtesy <https://entomologytoday.org/2017/05/10/how-the-varroa-mite-co-opts-honey-bee-behaviors-to-its-own-advantage/>



Photo courtesy http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/bees/varroa_mite.htm



Ashtabula County Beekeeper's Association news and events

Next meeting: Annual Picnic! Saturday, Sept 16th, 12pm @ East Park

The next ACBA meeting will be held on September 16 at 12pm. This will be the annual picnic and will be held at East Park in Jefferson, across from Memorial Field. Please bring a dish to share. This is an informal social meeting and a good way for new members to get to know the group. There will be open discussion.

The Ashtabula County Fair August 8th-13th



Deadline to submit entry forms is Tuesday, August 1st.

Entries must be submitted by 5pm, Monday, August 7th.

The Ashtabula County Fair will be August 8-13. If you want to enter items to be judged in the fair, you must submit an entry form to the Fair Board by Tuesday, August 1st at the Secretary's office under the Grandstand. Entry forms can also be mailed, faxed, or emailed. See the fair book for details. You will need to purchase an exhibitor's pass or membership ticket to enter items in the fair. Items for exhibit in departments 6 - 17 must be brought to fairgrounds on Monday, August 7 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Honey is included in department 16. Honey must be in clear, see-through glass jars and frames or section entries must be protected with clear plastic wrap. Classes for honey exhibition include:

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| 1. Honey, white light amber in 1 lb. jars | 10. Beeswax, non-decorative, 1 piece (1 lb. min.) |
| 2. Honey, amber in 1 lb. jars | |
| 3. Honey, dark in 1 lb. jars | You can find more information about the Ashtabula County Fair, including how to enter exhibitions, at this link: http://www.ashtabulafair.com/ |
| 4. Comb Honey, 3 sections | |
| 5. Comb Honey, 1 shallow frame for cutting | You can find a PDF version of the fair book, which includes exhibition rules and entry form, at this link: http://www.ashtabulafair.com/fairbook.html |
| 6. Extracting Honey 1 deep frame | |
| 7. Extracting Honey 1 shallow or 3/4 frame | (Exhibition information is on page 1, honey information is on page 41, and the entry form is on page 47 of the fair book.) |
| 8. Chunk Honey, 1.5 lb. jar | |
| 9. Consumer Pack, not to exceed 24" x 24" x 3" | |

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Or search @AshtabulaCountyBeekeepersAssoc on Facebook.com