

March Newsletter

www.summitbeekeepers.com

Next Meeting:

April 26

Summit County Fairgrounds' Virginia O'Casek Building

Speaker: Peggy Gaines

Topic: Splitting Hives

It's March! Spring is just around the corner!

What to expect, do, and prepare:

We are starting to see blooms pop up and the bees will soon start to buzz. This is the most vital month for bees and the most likely month that bees will starve. We are so close to spring but have so many temperature fluctuations that bees are using more energy to leave the hive, with little food sources available. Emergency feeding is a MUST when the days are 50 degrees and above.

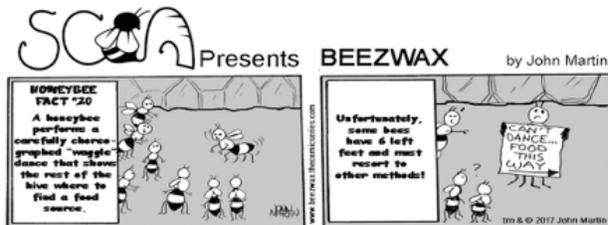
Important notes for bees and March:

- The queen will start laying much more
- The entire hive returns to almost normal operations and starts expanding
- Inspect the hive when the temperature is 50 degrees or above
- EMERGENCY feed!
- Bees will be a little more aggressive as food sources are scarce and cooler temperature

What's Blooming Today?

The Ohio State Phenology Calendar shows you what is blooming that day in your zip code. Find it here:

<https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>



Volunteer/Bee Buy-in Program:

Volunteer opportunities are available this year. We are looking to grow our club and have reached out to other partnerships within the community. In order for these to thrive, we need your help! Volunteers will receive one raffle ticket entry towards a 2019 package of bees!!! Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase for a second package of bees for \$5 each. Drawings will take place at the Feb. 2019 meeting.

SCBA Officers:

President: Greg Bokan
Vice President: Richard Reikowski
Treasurer: Laura Smith
Secretary: Kodie Keller

SCBA Trustees:

Jeanine Smith Wirebaugh
Okey Wise
John Irvine

March 24th

Bath Nature Preserve 10-12 pm

We will be offering a workshop on **How to correctly Install Package bees**. We will also be discussing catching swarms. Even if you haven't ordered bees this year, please feel free to join us!

Message from our President, Greg Bokan:

Hello members! Summit County Beekeepers Association has an educational and fun filled beekeeping season planned for our members in 2018! Here are some of the highlights you can look forward too!

Our training apiary at Abundant Life Farm will be in full swing this year!

We will be offering many workshops that will take the beekeeper on a journey from spring build up to hive inspections, varroa monitoring and treatment all the way to winterizing their hives.

We also have a wonderful opportunity at The University of Akron Field Station located in Bath Nature Preserve this year. The University of Akron has graciously offered us the usage of their amazing field station! We also have been offered by Bath Nature Preserve the adjoining fully enclosed Regal Begal Pavilion, both are free of charge for SCBA usage! We have plans for many classes and workshops at the field station and pavilion. We are particularly excited about using the microscopes at the field station for an advanced honeybee biology workshop! We also have plans for many other workshops including mead and wine making, lip balm and creamed honey to name a few.

Along with our annual field day to be held at Abundant Life Farm this year, we also have a field trip planned to an apiary and honey house in Mansfield Ohio, followed by a lunch at the Buckeye Chapter of Gold Prospectors Association of America pavilion in Bellville Ohio.

We have an array of excellent guest speaker lined up for this year including Kim Flottum from Bee Culture Magazine.

For our more experienced beekeepers, SCBA will be pursuing the OSBA master beekeepers program this year, we will have a sign up sheet at all club events for members that are interested.

We look forward to seeing everyone, and getting to know our new members.

Here's to an exceptional 2018 beekeeping season!

Greg Bokan
President SCBA

Important Announcements:

Special thanks to local cartoonist John Martin from Beezwx comics!

OSBA Master Beekeeper Program sign-ups are available. Most of our work will be taking place at Abundant Life Farm, and The University of Akron Field Station this summer!

Message from our Vice President, Richard Reikowski:

The Summit County Beekeepers proudly welcomed over 50 new graduate beekeeper members from our classes that were held during the month of January. There's a great deal of excitement for each and every member.

We have a new Mentor's Program to create long lasting connections with our new members and those with years of experience. This relationship will strengthen and encourage healthy relationships and bee successes. In addition, we have initiated a new Swarm List plan for immediate action and safe means of gathering and caring for swarms. We also, have many new plans for outreach of our club as well as our online presence with our website, blog, forum, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, and YouTube.

As the Vice President of SCBA, I couldn't be more pleased and honored to work with our board in unison toward dedication to our members. We believe in bringing inspiration and education to the communities that we keep bees.

"Bee" on the lookout for an exciting and amazing fundraiser that we have planned for 2018.

Best Beekeeping Regards,
Rich Reikowski
Vice President SCBA

Message from our Treasurer, Laura Smith

Depending on what day you're reading this it may be pouring rain outside or maybe it's still dumping snow. Ohio weather is a funny thing. Well let me assure you I

have seen a robin and I have faith Spring is coming! After our February meeting I have been chomping at the bit to get back into the full swing of beekeeping! I love talking with all of you and hearing your excitement for Spring and what it means for you and your apiaries. I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to our members as this is my first treasurer's report. My name is Laura, my husband's name is Tim and we have two sons that are 9 & 6 years old. Most of you know me from behind the hospitality table, making coffee, dreaming of the day I would actually have BEES! I have been a member since the winter of 2014/2015 and I got my first bees in 2016. Thanks to the Mueller family who donated a nuc for a raffle that summer! I bought a single entry \$5 ticket and I won! Driving home that night with a box of bees in my van was the last thing I expected but the following day when I got them into a hive body and stood back and marvelled at the fact that I HAD BEES, I may have shed a tear. It has been challenging and emotional but I have learned a lot and my passion has only seemed to grow despite how many times I have had to close the lids and head for the house because I have been stung one too many times that day. I'm learning. And I love learning right alongside all of you. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as Treasurer of SCBA but I'm most excited about getting to know you all more and expanding our beek knowledge together.

Laura Smith

Treasurer, SCBA