

# Lorain County Beekeepers Association



Volume 13, Issue 150

October 2016

## Special points of interest:

- Presidents Report
- October Banquet
- Executive Meetings

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## Presidents Report

We are finally getting the rain we have needed all summer, but I think it is too late. It has been a great honey production season, swarming has been a problem for some. Varroa has not been a factor and this always concerns me, as it gives beekeepers a false sense of security about future observations. At any rate this season will go into the books no doubt as one of the best beekeeping seasons in recent memory.

We will have our banquet this month Oct the 15th at Birmingham, 6:30 social and dinner at 7:00, remember NO MEETING FRIDAY 14th in Oberlin. Also remember to make reservations for the banquet by no later than Oct. 8th any no show after making reservations, may be billed for the meal! LCBA will pick up the tab for all MEMBERS after reservations are made. Any non-member wishing to attend the banquet after making

arrangements with Audrey Gargas and payment of 15.00 per guest can attend. There will also be a pumpkin carving/ decorating contest, first place will be 50.00 second 30.00 and third 25.00. Bring your art work and use it as a table decoration for the evening and take home a prize. Please bring useful items for our auction and come with plenty of cash to bid; this is always a fun time for all who attend. All proceeds from this sale go into our building fund as we work to gather to build for the future of LCBA.

As we head into the most difficult time of the year for beekeeping, winter, make sure you are staging your colonies for the worst case scenario, even though projections are for a mild winter chances are only about 40%. At the time of this writing Sept 30th, you only have about 30 days to get it right!



**LCBA October Banquet  
Saturday, October 15, 7 pm  
Birmingham United Methodist  
Church.  
RSVP Deadline: October 8**

See you at the banquet!

## LCBA October Banquet Saturday, October 15, 7 pm. Birmingham United Methodist Church

The October LCBA members meeting is combined with the Fall Banquet on Saturday, October 15th. There will no meeting on that Friday night.

The event will be catered by Smoking Joe's BBQ.

All RSVP's must be received by October 8 to Audrey Gargas email at [gargasl@frontier.com](mailto:gargasl@frontier.com).

All members are free and non-members welcome to attend at \$15 per person.

Members are asked to bring an appetizer or desserts.

Afterwards LCBA will hold an auction of new or gently used items donated by members for LCBA building fundraising. Please look around your home

and consider putting together a gift basket or donating items. Tickets to upcoming events are greatly appreciated. All items will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Please RSVP by October 8.

All No-Shows may be charged for their meals as they have been secured after RSVP.



## LCBA October Banquet - Continued

Upcoming banquet. 6:30 will be social hour, 7 pm will be dinner.

**Pumpkin Contest: All are welcome to enter for \$\$\$ prizes!**

**Either Carved or Decorated**

**1st Place: \$50**

**2nd Place: \$30**

**3rd Place: \$25**



Menu: The meat will be brisket and broached chicken, baked potatoes and baked beans. Appetizers and desserts will be provided by our members, Bill Vittori will bring the beverages. Meal comes with rolls, butter.

## Executive Meeting Minutes - September 29, 2016

Present: Denzil St. Clair, Sheila St. Clair, Bill Vittori, John Schick, Gene Gargas, Richard Sprague, Mike Yuhas, Audrey Gargas

Meeting called to order at 6:58pm

Old Business:

### **I. Fair wrap-up**

**Overall - Treasurers report** - Gene Gargas made copies of the fair honey sales with a comparison to 2015 sales and attendance. It was noted the attendance rate was down 11% and honey product sales were down 11%. Denzil St. Clair and Richard Sprague also noted that Medina County and Cuyahoga County fair sales were also down. Gene Gargas will put together a treasurer's report which breaks down all of the fair expenses versus income so everyone can see the expenses for preparation and running the booth for the week.

Gene Gargas will also add the building fund back into the treasurer's report. The building fund has been financed in the past by the Birmingham auction at the end of each banquet. For this date forward we will acknowledge everyone who donates to the building fund. The building fund was to be revisited in 5 years.

A proposal was made that we no longer put gross revenue and balances in the newsletter for LCBA. The treasurer's books are open and if anyone has questions, they are welcome to attend the executive meeting, which are open to the LCBA membership, and have their questions answered. For 7, Against 0.

Suggestions for improvement for next year - Audrey Gargas suggested we discuss moving the sellers meeting to July prior to the fair, start at 6:30 prior to the regular members meeting to review intent to sell paperwork, fair rules, honey booth sign up work sheet, labeling rules with the new raw, unprocessed, unfiltered labels (see Beekeeping for Dummies book) and inventory sheets. This way everyone who is interested in selling can attend and see if they are interested. This will make the clean up night easier at the fair and we can concentrate on cleaning and setting up and not having to have a sellers meeting after we are all done. The July meeting (starting at 6:30 pm) and the August meeting will be mandatory for all sellers and count towards two of the four meetings they must attend throughout the year. The intent to sell deadline will remain the same for August 5 and the lottery drawing for spaces will be held at the August meeting.

We will invite all members to the executive meeting in which the rules are reviewed for the fair next year. Denzil St. Clair suggested we print the agenda for the upcoming exec meeting in the newsletter so all members will know the topics if they would like to attend.

Denzil St. Clair noted a member that did not stay to clean up after the fair, they grabbed their honey and left, did not stay to clean up. We will discuss a penalty or fee assessment for future. Denzil St. Clair will discuss this matter with the seller.

Denzil St. Clair would like to continue with the railroad theme for next year, it seems like the children enjoy the train theme and

## Executive Meeting Minutes - September 29, 2016 - Continued

watching it circle the tracks.

Audrey Gargas would like to see no sellers complaining to other sellers or buyers behind the stand while they are working.

**Quality control measures for product** - We had some inferior honey products (granulated honey, very runny creamed honey) at the fair this year and it reflects on the club as a whole. Do we need to see about setting standards in regard to what products can sell and what products cannot sell? Denzil St. Clair suggested we set labeling guidelines as to having to use "raw" or "unprocessed" or "unfiltered" added to the label, especially if wax and bee products are visible. Gene Gargas suggested we set minimal standards Gene Gargas will review labeling rules at the next sellers meeting also.

Richard Sprague asked about the liability if someone gets sick from the product, if LCBA would be held liable. The board thought that would be between the buyer and seller since all product must be labeled with the sellers contact information.

**Pricing** - Was fair compared to other fairs, will revisit next year.

**Booth coverage** - Denzil St. Clair brought up the idea of an executive board member being present throughout the day. Each member could take a day and that would count as working their booth hours. This would be no pulling of product. (Please correct me if I have this in the notes incorrectly.)

**Square usage**- It was a big disappointment that NorthCoast Wireless was not working to its' full potential and the wireless problem was not solved throughout the week. In polling other vendors around the fairgrounds, they were also having problems, but most of them were using their own person equipment as a hotspot for taking charge cards. Sheila St. Clair mentioned that Jill O'Keefe's brother has a technology store and could possibly help us with equipment. We will look into renting equipment for next year and using a pay and go hot spot for the booth. Mike Yuhas will look into this for the fair next year. Denzil St. Clair mentioned this would be another reason to have an executive member present all day at the booth in case there are wireless problems.

**Display Case** - Audrey Gargas revisited a new display case replacing our present table that we have. She will continue to look into this for ideas for next year.

**Humble Bee 2017** - Humble Bee has been with us for 2 years now and has established herself with the children and parents for activities. She did send us a nice thank you letter and wished to discuss 2017. We currently paid Humblebee \$1450 for her services. Cost was \$400 per day and she donated back a portion of her proceeds, which amounted to \$150. We will invite Humble Bee to a January or February meeting to discuss the 2017 fair and see how she handles her other events. Are we to the point where we offer her the space and rent it to her, with her keeping all of her proceeds. This will be discussed at the next fair planning meeting.

**Judging** - Denzil St. Clair had invited Carmen Conrad to join us again to judge the LCBA honey products at the 2017 Lorain County Fair. This year we paid \$96 for a hotel room for her to spend the night in Wellington so she did not have to drive back to Columbus after a long day. Gene Gargas asked if he was responsible for paying her and no, the Lorain County Fair gives her \$200 for judging. We usually have judges judge two years in a row and then change judges.

**2. Birmingham Fest - October 1 & 2.** We have 5 sellers. Intent to sell paperwork was not distributed. Last year LCBA did not take 20% sales. Audrey Gargas made a motion we do not take 20% of the honey sales this year, Sheila St. Clair seconded and it passed For 5 Against 0, Abstained 3.

John Schick was approached by one of the sellers about selling other products such as gourds, jams, jellies and other fall products along with the honey. It will go with the fall theme but the 20% rule should apply to those products. We will let Bill Vittori, John Schick and Richard Sprague make the decision what should be sold in the booth and if the 20% rule applies.

Sheila St. Clair mentioned we should advertise for the beginning beekeepers classes while we are there. Audrey Gargas will forward John Schick the beekeeping sign-up sheets and he will display on a clipboard for sign-ups.

**3. Insurance coverage** - Richard Sprague is concerned our current LCBA insurance policy does not have directors or officers insurance liability in case of a nuisance suit. Is LCBA at risk during the time of the fair or other events. Travelers insurance has a 20-minute short video we can all review. Sheila St. Clair wanted to know if we should contact the insurance companies that advertise in ABJ. Richard will get more specifics, check the insurance cost rates and we will revisit before the fair for 2017. Audrey Gar-

## Executive Meeting Minutes - September 29, 2016 - Continued

gas will add back to the agenda for October. Audrey Gargas will also check with Kim Flottum regarding directors insurance cost through OSBA.

### 4. October Banquet

**Table centerpieces** – Denzil St. Clair will pick up pumpkins and mums at the auction he will be attending next weekend for the centerpieces.

**Raffle Items** - Denzil St. Clair would like Mike Yuhas to put a notice in the newsletter regarding the upcoming banquet. 6:30 will be social hour, 7 pm will be dinner. Auction will be afterwards. Please have everyone bring something to the auction. All proceeds will benefit the building fund.

**Menu** - For 30 cents per person, we will have the caterer provide the silverware, napkins and plates. The meat will be brisket and broached chicken, baked potatoes and baked beans. Appetizers and desserts will be provided by our members, Bill Vittori will bring the drinks. Meal comes with rolls, butter. All members invited to attend for free, non-members \$15 per person.

DEADLINE TO RSVP IS OCTOBER 8 to [gargasl@frontier.com](mailto:gargasl@frontier.com)

Last year we had 39 RSVP's and 29 attended. Denzil St. Clair suggested we add to the newsletter that anyone who RSVP's and does not attend may be billed for their meal. Cancellations up to 2 days in advance can be given to Audrey Gargas.

**5. Judges class (GCBA and LCBA)** - GCBA has dropped out of participating in these classes due to costs. OSBA has not responded to Denzil St. Clair yet.

**6. Newsletter info to Mike by October 1** - Mike Yuhas will put a blurb in the newsletter for the upcoming banquet regarding RSVP's, bringing an appetizer or dessert, bringing an auction item. Anyone who RSVP's they are coming and do not attend may be billed for their meal (\$15). All LCBA members are invited to attend, non-members will be charged \$14 per person.

Mike Yuhas stated he is going through different websites and looking for newsletter articles that pertain to beekeeping articles that apply to our climate. He was advised to be careful posting pictures from other websites since this could induce scam phone calls regarding copyrights on pictures. It was suggested he consider using pictures that Sheila St. Clair and Bonnie Pierson have taken from different events, recipes from our honey cook book, asking club members for articles and Mike Yuhas suggested doing interviews and highlights from new beekeepers.

### New Business:

Speakers for rest of the year and 2017

November meeting - Sheila St. Clair will confirm Kim Flottum and his topic for the November members meeting.

December will be the Christmas party, last year we played games, Denzil St. Clair will consider having a speaker at the meeting.

Dates for Beginners Beekeepers classes to reserve hall - The new classes will be held on March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. Audrey Gargas will look into reserving the hall for those nights. We will need to start looking for speakers for those meetings.

OSBA & LCBA non-profit status - Gene Gargas received a letter from OSBA regarding our non-profit status and how we need to be registered with the IRS, Secretary of State and the Attorney General. If we are not registered with these, it is highly recommended that we affiliate with OSBA. Gene nor Audrey Gargas had the letter with them and Audrey Gargas will scan and forward to everyone when she gets home tonight. The letter will also be attached to the minutes for the meeting in the Secretary notebook. Denzil St. Clair noted that LCBA is a charitable organization and if LCBA is to affiliate with OSBA, there would be no benefits for our organization. Gene Gargas will not respond to the letter at this time since we are registered as we need to be.

Open to floor - Bill Vittori though it was great that there was a computer person available to help Dr. Tew with his set up. Denzil St. Clair said it was a member of LCBA and we should see if he is interested in helping with all computer set ups. Denzil will mention at the next members meeting.

Richard Sprague made a motion to adjourn, Gene Gargas seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Committed to educating the public about the value of honeybees and the impact honeybees have on our world.

## LORAIN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

For Membership Mail to:  
LCBA Membership  
c/o Gargas  
2410 Brook Haven Lane  
Hinckley, OH 44233

Newsletter Submissions/  
Questions  
Email: BuzzzzEditor@gmail.com

We're on the Web!  
[www.loraincountybeekeepers.org](http://www.loraincountybeekeepers.org)

Covering and located in Lorain County, Ohio. LCBA was founded in 1919 as a non-profit organization committed to educating the public about the value of honeybees and the impact honeybees have on our world. We provide educational appearances upon request for schools and other groups. LCBA encourages and mentors beginning beekeepers through scholarship programs for students and adult education.

### Monthly Meetings

**When: 2nd Friday of the month. Beginning at 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.**

**Where: First Church in Oberlin (United Church of Christ)**

**106 N. Main Street  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074**



Shelley Bodkin, of Henrietta Township, passed away March 23, 2016. ...She enjoyed being outdoors gardening, beekeeping and caring for her chickens...

## Upcoming: October Executive Meeting - 10/27/16

All members are invited to attend the upcoming October Executive Meeting, Thursday, October 27 at 7 pm, First Church, 106 N Main St, Oberlin, OH 44074.

### Executive Meeting Agenda

Old Business:

Birmingham Festival Wrap Up

Birmingham Members Meeting Banquet Wrap Up

November Speaker - Kim Flottum

December Members Meeting - Christmas

Party activities

2017 Speaker suggestions and topics

Beginner Beekeepers classes

Speakers

Hall Reservations

Honey Board pamphlets

OSBA information

Insurance Liability Coverage

Judges Classes Update

Humble Bee Update for 2017

New Business:

Fair Ad for 2017 booklet

Speaker for Field Day

Open to Floor

Adjourn

