

Description of Talks

“What is Killing Our Bees (and what can we do about it)?” - In many ways, beekeeping is harder than ever. Colony loss rates are high in many areas around the world. Old pests and pathogens continue to cause problems. New pests and pathogens threaten colony health. With all of the confusion swirling around bee health, we are left to wonder what the principle killers of honey bee colonies actually are. Herein, Dr. Ellis will discuss what is killing bees around the world and what can be done to reduce the losses.

“The Birds and the Bees: Well, Just the Bees” - Individual honey bees and honey bee colonies both reproduce. In this lecture, you will learn about the mating and reproductive habits of queen and drone honey bees. The reproduction of individual bees will be placed in a larger context with that of colony level reproduction, a feat accomplished by the swarm.

“Controlling Varroa” - Varroa remain the number one killer of honey bees on the planet. Thus, beekeepers must take every measure necessary to control Varroa. The Honey Bee Health Coalition produced a fantastic guide to controlling Varroa: Tools for Varroa Management. In this lecture, Varroa control will be discussed in light of the information provided in the guide.

“The times they are a changin” Bees are continually being forced to evolve due to environmental changes and introduced parasites. In turn, beekeeping, and the business of beekeeping must also evolve. An overview that puts the recent evolution of beekeeping and agriculture into perspective--how parasites, climate change, changing agricultural practices, beekeeping practices, world trade, pesticides, and GMO's fit into the picture of today's state of the honey bee. Of interest to both hobby and commercial audiences.

“Small-Scale Queenrearing” Every beekeeper should experience the joy of rearing daughters from their best queens! In this presentation I show step-by-step queenrearing techniques for the hobbyist through small commercial beekeeper. Tips from several decades of experience.

“ADAPTING TO VARROA & EXTENDED-RELEASE OXALIC ACID RESEARCH UPDATE”

A group of us are collaborating with USDA-ARS to collect data in support for EPA to approve this application method, which is showing great promise (and may be a game changer in varroa management). This presentation will be about our progress to date. This topic is currently extremely popular!

“Introduction To Beekeeping” These sessions will start out very basic, and work into more advanced topics as the day progresses. If you are just getting into Beekeeping this will be the class for you. Come prepared to learn everything you will need to to get started in Beekeeping.

“The Art of Soap Making” Today Valerie will discuss the Art of Soap Making. From beginning to end.

“Mead Making” This session will cover the art and craft of producing your own Honey Wine (Mead). You will learn the basics of production and the important things to remember when planning and producing your own mead.

“Colony Nutrition” What are the nutritional requirements of your Honey Bees during the different stages of their life. What, if anything can you do to improve their nutrition and health?

“Small Hive Beetle Detection and Control” We will be discussing how to identify the small hive beetle and ways to control them when you find them in your hive.

“What Are Bees Foraging on in Ohio?” If nutrition and a balanced diet is important for the Honey Bees health, how do they decide what to forage.