

Lorain County Beekeepers Association

Founded 1882 Reorganized 1919 Incorporated 1966



7074 Case Road
N. Ridgeville, Ohio 44039
28 January 1980

SUBJECT: Lorain County Beekeepers Association

An article in the Elyria Constitution Newspaper in 1882 to the attention of beekeepers advised that 200 beekeepers in Lorain County had 4,500 colonies of bees and this year had only half a crop or 153,000 pounds of honey. This article stated that a courtroom had been obtained and urged all beekeepers and those interested meet at the Court House for the purpose of forming a beekeeping society. This was apparently the beginning of the Lorain County Beekeepers Association.

Articles appeared in the papers for several years about bees and the beekeepers meetings, however, little information has been found about this organization from the 1880's until the club was reactivated in 1919 in Wellington.

Four families who are still active have been in the organization since 1929: Mr. & Mrs. Orrin (Hazel) Van Haun, Mrs. Emma Mann's and her husband, Ted, who died in 1976, Harry & Marie Vanderberg and Mr. & Mrs. Claude (Fleeta) Mohrman. All above men and Hazel Van Haun are past presidents and were at one time commercial beekeepers. Harry Vanderberg and Claude Mohrman are past county bee inspectors, Harry is also past president of O.S.B.A. All are very knowledgeable in the art of beekeeping and each has his own inimitable methods of manipulating honeybees and processing honey--so we have some very interesting discussions at our meetings.

We have approximately 80 members, counting wives and children who are active. We meet the second Friday of each month at the Elyria Savings and Trust, West Side Branch at 7:30 p.m. Except August when we have our annual corn roast picnic at a Metropolitan park, where planning is done for our weeks exhibition at the Lorain County Fair, and except October when we have our annual recognition banquet. Members are recognized for their contributions to beekeeping and a trophy and gift is presented to the outstanding 4H beekeeper of the year. We also have a field day which is usually in June in conjunction with the Medina Beekeepers Association when demonstrations with live bees are conducted as well as contests and refreshments.

Our purpose is to promote beekeeping in Lorain County, to assist beekeepers with their problems and to interest 4Hers, Boy Scouts and other youngsters in beekeeping. We have knowledgeable speakers, round table discussions, questions and answers, demonstrations and slide programs. Visitors are always welcome and refreshments are served.

Harry R. Painter
Harry R. Painter, Treasurer

Thomas Jefferies, President
Alan Griggs, Vice President
Jane Dowdell (Mrs. Richard), Secretary