

President's letter January 19, 2019

Hello to All,

Winter lingers. As I write this they are calling for 6 inches of snow. Dark. Bleak. Miserable outside. What can I say? Better times have been promised. Tomorrow? At least by Monday...

BUT, things regarding the club are flying. Since our last meeting, in recognition for our involvement in supporting their bee club, we were presented with a check for \$930 from the inmates of the Belmont Correctional Facility which caught me completely off guard. What goes around has come around many times over. In turn, we have obtained the sound system for Oglebay at a price under the budgeted amount and will formally present it to the administration of the Good Zoo at the February meeting.

A full schedule of speakers has been lined up for the spring including a Saturday presentation as promised, and believe it or not, a second one in the works that has not yet fully fallen into place. But so far, here is what we have to look forward to: February - Dr. Greg Polsinelli of Bethany College, speaking on the Mechanisms of Queen/Worker Differentiation; March - Mark Bedillion, a commercial beekeepers, outlining his management techniques; April - Denise Ellsworth from the Department of Entomology, Ohio State University, speaking on Native Pollinator Identification and Honey Bee Forage Sources; and May - Bob Hooker outlining queen rearing. On Saturday, May 18, we will host Carmen Conrad, certified Ohio State Beekeepers Association honey judge, presenting a one day program on preparing honey for competition and honey judging. Our novice classes begin in February 26 and will conclude with the open hive field day with Wade Stiltner, chief WV apiarist. If you know of anyone interested, we still have openings in the class. If that line-up doesn't contain something that interests you... well... never mind...

I am anxious to get started with the monthly meetings, and most anxious to get back into the bee yard. But for now must be content with just waiting. However, the bee catalogs are beginning to arrive and sustain me. I look forward to seeing all of you in February. Remember, dues will be collected at that meeting and orders will be taken for nucs and packages so get out into the yard and assess your needs.

Steve