

Sorority chapter helps the community



The Mu Beta chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma will be having their annual Chinese Auction on Tuesday, September 15. It will be held at the Pleasant Township Fire House located at the corner of State Route 188 and Coonpath Road. The doors will open at 5:30pm and the drawing will begin at 7pm. There will also be toy baskets, food baskets, and a 50/50 raffle drawing. Sandwiches, snacks, drinks, and desserts will also be available for purchase when you are hungry.

Sigma Phi Gamma is an International Sorority. It promotes friendship and service work. Sigma Phi Gamma has

supported many service projects nationally such as Autism Speaks, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the Lupus Foundation, and many others.

Locally, the Mu Beta chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma has supported many service projects too. The chapter adopts families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Part of Rainbow Drive in Lancaster has been adopted by the chapter for road clean up. There are many other services this group has done for the community. Proceeds from the Chinese Auction will benefit Mu Beta's service projects in the community.

Attracting Cardinals to Your Back Yard

Cardinals usually are the first birds to feed in the morning and the last to feed at night. They prefer feeders with large areas for perching such as a fly-thru or ground feeder. Fly-thru feeders are open on all sides with a roof. With no sides on a fly-thru, our view is unobstructed and escaping from a predator is made easier for the birds. Try using a fly-through feeder mounted on a post or hanging from a tree limb or hanger. A ground feeder can also provide ample perching space.

Cardinals will eat a variety of foods: black oil sunflower,

safflower, cracked corn, suet, and peanut pieces. They may also eat pieces of raisins and banana. Water also plays a very important part in attracting cardinals and other birds, both in summer and winter.

Enjoy nature! Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 12th to come to the Lithopolis Honeyfest and celebrate National Honey Month with us. Charlotte Leight Nature's Barn, 20 E. Columbus St., Lithopolis. Hours: Tue-Fri 11-5, Thu 11-6, Sat 10-5. 614-837-1929. Gift Certificates Available.

www.TheNaturesBarn.com.

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A Honey of a Festival



Conrad Hive & Honey of Canal Winchester had a booth at last year's Honeyfest in Lithopolis and will return this year.

by Tammy Drobina

The only festival in the state of Ohio to celebrate honey takes place in Lithopolis on Saturday, September 12, during National Honey Month. The 2nd annual Honeyfest runs from 10am-6pm and features all manner of bee- and honey-related activities, exhibits, and concessions.

The idea for the festival came from a local person who knows a great deal about the subject. "We used to have a farmer's market in town and Arnold Crabtree, 'The Bee Man,' was there almost every Friday," explained Ginger Brenning, co-chair of the event. "He mentioned we should consider doing a honey festival and when the farmer's market was discontinued, Charlotte Leight and I started looking into it and found there were none in Ohio, and only about four or five in the entire country."

Brenning said the idea was to put the best of everything offered by a farmer's market into a one-day event. "It was a wonderful idea from Arnold and it's become everything we've dreamed, and more."

Some of the attractions will include Crabtree's bee beard, honey extracting, observation hives, beekeepers and beekeeping exhibits along with honey and hive products, honey tasting, a Honey Cook-off, and homemade and honey-made concessions. There will also "bee" live musical entertainment by Dave Hawkins, Luxury Brown, and Swing's the Thing Big Band, plus many artisans and vendors with items for sale. Admission and parking are free.

The kids can keep busy as bees

with arts and crafts at the busy beehive kids booth making scrunchy hats, thumbprint cards, make-a-fan, face painting, and more. Kids can also try on a beekeeping suit and learn about beekeeping at the Central Ohio Beekeepers Association booth.

Bee beard demonstrations are set for 11am and 4pm, as "The Bee Man" will amaze the audience at the stage on Columbus



Arnold Crabtree, known as "The Bee Man," with a bee beard. See this in person at the Lithopolis Honeyfest on Sept. 12. (Photos courtesy of Lithopolis Honeyfest)

Street. Crabtree did his first bee beard last year and plans to demonstrate it again for the festival, which is sure to draw a crowd.

Honey extracting will be demonstrated at the outdoor amphitheater on the east end of the grounds and many organizational booths will present sessions to educate the public on the honey bee's contributions, how beehives work, and more.

"The bee beard is not to be missed, and everything else is a close second," Brenning said.

2009 American Honey Princess Allison Hull, crowned in January at the American Beekeeping Federation Convention in Reno, Nevada, will be present all day and serve as a judge for the Cook-off Contest, serving along with Lithopolis Village Councilmember Ted Simon and Canal Winchester High School teacher Amy Kruse. Cook-off rules and an entry form can be found on the festival website www.LithopolisHoneyfest.com. The contest will take place in the food court.

Wagnalls Memorial will offer self-guided tours from 10am-2pm, a used book sale, and a Children's Theatre Silent Film Showcase. The Children's Theatre group directed, produced and performed their own silent films, which will be shown in the auditorium.

A photography contest and exhibit will be available for viewing all day and photo ops will abound when "H.T. Bee," the Hometown Buffet mascot, is on hand from 10am-3pm.

The festival helps to raise awareness of the bee industry, said Brenning.

"Surprisingly, there are many bee-related services and products in this area but I don't think people are aware of it because it's such an unusual hobby or profession. But once you start looking into it, you find there are many opportunities to get involved in beekeeping."

For more info visit LithopolisHoneyfest.com or contact Brenning at 614-837-2031.

The Lithopolis Honeyfest — it's a great place to 'bee'!