



From the Director

Now as I sit here preparing this message to you (March 8), I look out the window seeing a snow covered landscape and wonder how it can be possible that we will be opening for a new season in less than two months. This morning the temperature was near zero and now in the middle of the day it is still below freezing; however, the weatherman tells us that there is a warming trend on the way. Warmer weather will definitely be welcome. Winter didn't arrive until mid January and since then it has been considerably colder than normal.

We are now anxious to venture out of doors and get started on the myriad of tasks that await gardeners in early spring. David and Susan have already begun serious work in the greenhouses. Seeds, plugs,

and cuttings are arriving almost daily which requires opening up more greenhouse space (we hate to do this in such cold weather) to accommodate the new plants that will be needed for executing the new bed designs they have planned for this year. Results of the many hours spent developing our designs can only be realized provided we produce or contract for the twelve to fifteen thousand annuals that will be required. Of course we always try and grow extra plants so we will have some exciting choices to offer for our plant sale.

Our goal this year, as in previous years, is to make the gardens and our operations here better than ever before. Thanks to the generous support of our many members and friends in 2006 we are able to go

forward with a number of improvements in the gardens that I am sure you will be pleased to see when you visit this year. We continue to depend heavily on the assistance provided by members and donors and urge you to continue your support in 2007. Modest gains in income each year are necessary for us to just stay even, however, we strive to make the gardens better each year and that requires substantial gains. So, it is vital that those of you who have been lending your assistance continue to do so and that we expand our donor base to include the many others of you who have not yet started contributing.

We look forward to seeing everyone this summer and extend our "happy gardening" wish to each of you.

Reg Noble

Trellis Gallery Opening Exhibit

The opening art exhibit in the Trellis Gallery this season will feature a one man show by Rick Dziak, OPA. The exhibit will feature some twenty-five of his most outstanding recent paintings. Rick was born and raised on the Marblehead Peninsula, in northern Ohio, along the shores of Lake Erie. A large portion of his work is done "en plein air". This helps him to record true color, work quickly before the light changes, and still get the needed essentials. The majority of his paintings are landscapes of northwest Ohio.



Rick is a Signature Member of Oil Painters of America, the Toledo Artists Club, The Ohio Plein Air Society, and the Monday Morning Painters, another plein air group.

He is represented by Collector's Corner at the Toledo Museum of Art, and he and his wife Mary operate the Dziak Gallery in Marblehead, Ohio. For more information and to view his work visit www.dziak-gallery.com.

(Rick received Signature member status in Oil Painters of America in Dec. 2006)

International Cooperative Education Student

A new face is coming to Schedel Gardens. Her name is Julita Degorska, (Julee). She is visiting us from Warsaw Poland, and is currently a student of Warsaw School of Economics. Julita is participating in the International Student Program for work and travel abroad sponsored in part by the European Union. She will be with us from the middle of July through August. The Noble's along with our staff will serve as her host and supervisor. Julee will gain work experience in varying aspects of the Schedel Gardens operation. Please come and welcome Julee, and if you would like to help defray some of the expenses we will incur as her host, please let us know.

Closed on Mondays

We will again be closed on Mondays for the 2007 Season. This allows our staff a little breathing room and time to tend to chores that are best performed in the absence of guests. We will continue to make exceptions for group tours or special events on a case by case basis.

"Torii" Via Email

Help us save! For those of you who use the internet we would like to urge you to start receiving your newsletter electronically. Costs of printing and mailing the "Torii" continue to increase. We are now set up to make the newsletter available on our website or send it to your email address. If you provide us with an email when you renew your membership we will automatically start sending your "Torii" electronically. Thank you for your help on this matter.

Save the Date

This year our annual "Hidden Garden Party" Fund-raiser will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, September 9th. We hope that many of our readers will have interest in attending. Please save the date!

SCHEDAL ARBORETUM & GARDENS

19255 West Portage River South Rd.

Elmore, Ohio 43416-0081

Telephone (419) 862-3182

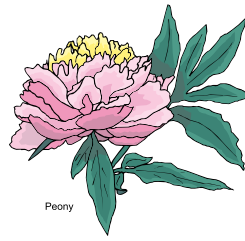
Fax (419) 862-1909

e-mail - schedelgardens@woh.rr.com

Web Page - www.schedel-gardens.org



The Schedel Arboretum & Gardens is an operation of the Joseph J. and Marie P. Schedel Foundation. The Arboretum and Gardens is dedicated to preserving and improving this marvelous legacy from Joseph and Marie Schedel. It is funded by income from the Schedel Foundation, memberships, donations, grants, and special fund-raising events. The Schedel Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors.



May Blooms (Plant Sale)

May and early June bring us many wonderful treats that you won't want to miss. Among these are our flowering trees, peonies (65 different varieties), a colorful iris garden, and a wall of fragrant lilacs that splash their fragrance throughout the grounds. Exactly when they bloom, and the duration of blooming varies from a few to several days, depending on weather conditions. Make sure you time your spring visit to catch the show. For those of you thinking about future blossoms in your garden, we will have some divided perennials available for purchase opening day. These will include peonies, dawn redwoods, and many others. Surplus annuals, and our much sought after pepper plants, won't be available until a little later.

Did You Know?

- Americans spend over \$12 billion per year on lawn care.
- That in the early 1930's to 60's, Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) was used as a separator between the plates in batteries due to its ability to withstand the battery acid and maintain its shape.

Photo Contest 2007

We will be hosting our 2nd annual Photo Contest this fall. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the top photos; 1st place \$200, 2nd place \$100, 3rd place \$75, and special Merit (up to 5 awards) \$25 each. A Directors Award of \$50, gift cards totaling \$250 for gear at Castle Photo, and numerous award ribbons will also be presented. All photos must be taken on the grounds of Schedel A & G between September 2006 and August 31, 2007. The deadline for submitting entries will be September 1, 2007. Entry fees apply. Please visit our website at www.schedel-gardens.org for more details.

Jan Pugh Fountain

A local favorite, Jan Pugh of Packer Creek Pottery, will have a new pottery creation on display at the gardens this summer. As many of you know, Packer Creek Pottery is located on 8th Street in Genoa. Jan has a unique artistic expression and love for the craft. This comes together in a style called "Majolica" pottery. Majolica is a centuries old style of earthenware using a white glaze on which colorful designs are hand painted. Please stop to see her new and unique work. We still have a few hand painted tiles (signed, numbered, and dated) available for sale. Please inquire at the office.

Introducing Bhut Jolokia!

We are adding a new pepper to our collection this season. Remember this name folks, because it is going down in the annals of history as the world's hottest pepper to date. Introducing Bhut Jolokia! It measures 1,001,304 SHU (Scoville Heat Units). Habanero 'Red Savina', which previously held the record, comes in at 248,556 SHU.

How do they measure the heat of peppers accurately? For many years the heat was measured by Scoville Units, a measurement developed by Wilbur Scoville in 1912. Panels of professional tasters were used to measure the hotness of a pepper by adding sweetened water to the crushed pepper. The more dilution re-



quired, the hotter the pepper was. This test was highly subjective and susceptible to human error and so a better method was developed to test the heat of a pepper. That method is called HPLC or High Pressure Liquid Chromatography. This method identifies and measures the amounts of heat-producing chemicals. These numbers are then input into a mathematical formula and the results are measured in ASTA (American Spice Trade Association) pungency units. ASTA pungency units are then multiplied by 15 to be converted into Scoville Heat Units (SHU).

We probably will not eat or touch this pepper, but we will have the honor of growing and cultivating the world's hottest pepper.

From David's Desk

By David Halsey

Some time ago I read an article in a garden publication, 'The Avant Gardener', which Susan receives. The article dealt with the idea of spraying a solution of aspirin water (crushed aspirin dissolved in water) on one's plants to improve disease and pest resistance. The active ingredient in aspirin is acetylsalicylic acid which is closely related to salicylic acid, a substance that occurs naturally in the bark of willow trees and most other plants at varying levels. Naturally occurring salicylic acid in plants appears to combat pests, fungi and viruses. Acetylsalicylic acid was developed in 1897 by a Bayer chemist named Dr. Felix Hoffman, since salicylic acid caused distress in human subjects.

A plant phenomenon called 'Systemic Acquired Resistance' (SAR) was first encountered in the 1930's. When a plant encounters a pathogen, salicylic acid is made and is the key regulator of SAR which in turn activates the defense genes of the plant being attacked. Quite often plants don't perform this function quickly enough before the damage has been done. It has been said that spraying plants with Aspirin speeds up this response and gives them an immune system boost whose effects can stimulate the SAR response from weeks to months.

Chemical companies are pursuing research into this area of pest and disease control in plants. There are two companies with products on the market that stimulate

the SAR response: Eden BioScience produces a product called Messenger, which uses harpins, proteins which enhance a plant's own growth potential and immune systems; in fact, the American Rose Society endorses the use of this product. Syngenta is marketing a product called Actigard, which acts in a similar manner. These products are new to the market, but a quick read of testimonials on the Eden BioScience website tells of great success with this product. Those who wish to eliminate or reduce their use of fungicides and pesticides may want to experiment with this product. Not only do the manufacturers claim increased resistance to diseases and pests, but indicate that plants treated with their products are much more vigorous and healthy. Those of you who want to try crushed aspirin, it is important that you keep this in mind: Aspirin applied at too high a dose can injure the plant. The products Messenger and Actigard based on the same science are much gentler than crushed aspirin, so if you decide to try enhancing the SAR response of your plants, you may want to look closer at the aforementioned commercial products.

For further information on this evolving area of research, paste the following link into your browser: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-12/cunspis120503.php. Imagine how positively we could impact our environment by reducing the use of chemicals in our ornamental and food crops.

ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST

By Susan Halsey

Many of us are nervously waiting for the death knell – for our beloved ash trees. Unfortunately, with the rapid spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), it's probably just a matter of time before any ash tree in our area will be infected. And once infected, it's a short period of decline before they're dead, usually from one to three years. If you plan on staying in your home for a while, then thought should be given as to what to do about this problem.

One thought is to just keep the tree, and see what happens. If it dies, then remove it. If by chance it lives, then you are further ahead. Who knows what the next couple of years might bring – the EAB problem might burn itself out, or a new chemical proven to eradicate or prevent EAB might come on the market – one just can't predict what will happen. You could use preventative measures now – there are certain pesticides that are approved for EAB. For more information, you can check on the internet, or with your local cooperative extension service.

Another idea is to plant other tree species now, with the thought that the ash trees will need to be replaced eventually. This would be especially beneficial if you utilize your trees around your house for their cooling benefits, as I do. Then the big question is what kind of tree to choose, and that is the main focus of this article.

Obviously, there are so many tree choices and objectives. The key to choosing and planting a tree is to select one that will achieve these objectives, and will grow well with the existing conditions. So, ask yourself, "Why am I planting this tree?" Is it for shade, wildlife, erosion control, visual/sound barrier, aesthetics, or reforestation? And then, decide what kind of tree will grow well on the site. Planting site characteristics can affect tree choices and its growth – availability of sun/shade, soil type, pH, drainage, and proximity to other plantings, power lines, water/septic systems, foundations, and sidewalks/drive-ways. Other things to think of - does the plant produce nuts/fruits that might be a hazard/nuisance on sidewalks, exude a sticky substance, and therefore isn't appropriate for over a parking area; and what is the life expectancy of the tree? Once you've reviewed the requirements for your replacement tree, it's time to choose. And oh, the choices. I could go on and on and on and on and on..... Here are just a few:

Bur Oak – *Quercus macrocarpa* Grows in a wide range of soils from sand to clay; tolerates pH ranges from 4-8; tolerates periodic flooding; golf ball sized acorns – good for wildlife; large tree (60'+ tall by 60'+ wide); coarse textured; very majestic; well adapted to urban environment.

Japanese Zelkova – *Zelkova serrata* Fast growing;

pH adaptable; very wind and drought tolerant once established; very handsome tree in foliage, growth habit (vase-shape reminiscent of elms) and bark; large (50-70' tall by 40-50' wide); one of our favorite trees at Schedel Arboretum and Gardens.

Kentucky Coffeetree – *Gymnocladus dioica* Another tall tree (60-75' tall by 40-50' wide); tolerant of many soil types and drought; intolerant of shade and flooding; foliage is bipinnately compound; adapts readily to urban situations.

Ginkgo – *Ginkgo biloba* A medium growing tree; pyramidal when young, becoming wide spreading with large, massive, picturesque branches when older; 50-80' tall by 30-50' wide; grows in most soils; full sun; very pH adaptable; air pollution tolerant; pest free; unique fan-shaped leaves, and nice yellow fall color; heat and salt tolerant; very important – plant male trees or known

cultivars, as the fruit borne on female ginkgos has a repugnant fragrance.

Swamp White Oak – *Quercus bicolor* Another nice oak, good for our area, especially wet or lowland areas; grows 50-60' tall by 50-60' wide; has a broad, open rounded crown; one inch long acorns, food for wildlife; requires acid soil.

Thornless Honeylocust – *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* Light shaded tree, so grass will grow well under canopy; variable size in landscape, but usually between 30-60' with a comparable spread; leaves are bipinnately compound; tolerant of drought conditions, high pH, and salt; full sun. From personal observation, do not plant by your entry door as the small leaflets will be found throughout the house, brought in on your shoes.

American Sweetgum – *Liquidambar styraciflua* A fast growing, tall (60-75' with 2/3's to equal spread) tree; interesting "corky" bark on smaller stems; full sun; avoid polluted areas; most vigorous on moist, acidic soils; nice fall color of yellow-purple-red tones; fruit is a syncarp of dehiscent capsules – OK, it's a ball, and can be extremely messy.

Black Locust – *Robinia pseudoacacia* An upright tree with a straight trunk and a narrow oblong crown (50' tall by 30' wide); fast growing; transplants easily; extremely adaptable to varied soils (except permanently wet) and climates; tolerant of dry conditions; has the ability to fix nitrogen (it's in the legume family); not necessarily a lawn tree, but good in difficult areas.

As you may have noticed the trees I've chosen to write about are all in the same height range as White and Green Ashes, with the assumption of replacing like size with like size. This might not be your first choice – you may wish to choose a smaller tree for a myriad of reasons. In that case, I could go on and on and on and on and on.....





Annual Volunteer Orientation Luncheon

New and returning volunteers are invited to our Orientation Luncheon in the Trellis Gallery on Wednesday, April 25th from 11:00 – 1:00. We look forward to getting together, conducting a little business and training, and having a nice lunch. By this date the gardens will be looking great.

Please RSVP via email vsheets2@woh.rr.com or phone (419)862-3182 no later than April 20. If it isn't possible for you to attend, please contact us and we will go over the various bits of information and get your scheduling information.

Alternanthera – Not Just For Grandma Anymore!

Say **Alternanthera** and you just get stares. Say "Joseph's Coat", and many people think of the plants that Grandma grew. Also known as "Calico Plant" and "Parrot Leaf", Alternanthera is making a comeback. They range in color from bright lime green and gold, to white variegated, to bright fuchsia pinks and oranges, to burgundy, and multi-colored. They have a wide variety of leaf forms and sizes. "Grandma" used them on her window sills, and they were a favorite for carpet bedding with the Victorians. In recent years there has been a huge resurgence in the use of foliage plants, alone or in conjunction with flowering annuals, in flower beds and in containers. With their wide range of color and form, and their tolerance for full sun and heat, Alternanthera can be a stand alone planting, or used as a foil for flowering plants or other foliage plants. We have ordered several varieties to use this year. We have utilized 'Red Threads' (narrow, burgundy leaves) for the past three years – it makes a great border plant and goes well with monochromatic plantings, or used with contrasting plants. This year we are also using 'Brazilian Red Hots' (hot fuchsia pink), 'True Yellow' (yes, it's yellow), 'Party Time' (pink and green variegated), 'Crème de Menthe' (green and white variegated), and 'Snowball' (small leaved, green and white variegated). We are looking forward to "playing" with color combinations, and trialing these "new" plants.

WBGU-BG TV Show

Hopefully you were able to catch us on the TV screen recently. WBGU-TV hosted a special on Schedel Arboretum and Gardens on March 3rd and again on March 15. WBGU-BG has been a long time supporter of the gardens. If you missed the program, or liked it and would like a copy of "A Living Vision" we have copies (video tape & DVD) available for sale. Also we have a DVD entitled "A Wondrous Legacy" available for purchase. Inquire at the office.

Tree Guide – A Volunteer's Dream Realized

Thanks to the suggestion and initiative of our Master Gardener Volunteer, Elaine Mylander, we are in the process of publishing a Schedel Arboretum & Gardens Tree Guide. Elaine not only recognized the need for a guide, she agreed to do the research and write the text for the guide. She selected forty trees of special interest in the gardens and put together information of interest about each. The original intent was to have a guide that could be made available to guests who were on guided tours of the gardens. Since then, we have expanded the scope to provide it as an educational document for public school students. We anticipate trying it out with some local schools this year, and hope to expand it as needed. We anticipate having it on sale in our gift shop and will give a copy to all interested members. This is but one example of just how valuable our volunteers are to our operation.

Live Radio Broadcast from the Gardens

On Saturday May 5th, Supertalk 1560, WTOD, will be broadcasting live from the gardens with Firm Foundation team, Rick & Jackie Metz. Broadcast sessions of the "Garden Show" will run from 8:00 am to 9:00 am and 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This year's talent will feature Mike O'Rourke "The Garden Guy", David Halsey, Assistant Director of Schedel Gardens, and Hans Thumm of Temperance Garden Specialties. Mike O'Rourke's show "The Garden Guy" airs every Saturday from 8am until 9am. For interested members, we are offering you an opportunity to **send us your questions** for the "Garden Guy". We will select the top ten questions and he will discuss them on the air. If you would like to enter a question please email us at vsheets2@woh.rr.com or mail to Schedel, PO Box 81, Elmore, OH 43416 or phone us at (419)862-3182. Deadline for all questions considered for on air purposes will be April 27th. Some of the questions not discussed on the air will be answered in the June issue of the "Torii".

Schedel Arboretum and Gardens Membership Program

FRIEND'S CIRCLE

Buckeye Level -- \$35

Single membership (fully tax deductible †)

Redbud Level -- \$50

Family membership. (fully tax deductible †)

Lilac Level -- \$100

Family membership and four passes.
10% discounts on plant and gift sales.
(fully tax deductible †)
Family = Spouse and dependent children.

Dogwood Level -- \$250

Family membership and four passes.
SA&G tee shirt for new members.
10% discounts on plant and gift shop sales.
(fully tax deductible †)

Magnolia Level* -- \$500

Family membership and four passes.
SA&G tee shirt for new members.
10% discounts on plant and gift shop sales.
10% discount for a hosted social event. ††
(\$465 is tax deductible †)

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Benefits also include all those at Friend's Circle levels.

Lily Level* -- \$1,000

An invitation for two to attend the Director's Reception and Dinner at the gardens.
(\$930 is tax deductible†)

Dahlia Level* -- \$2,500

An invitation for two to attend the Director's Reception and Dinner at the gardens.
Use of the gardens for a social event for up to 100 guests at no charge. ††
(\$2,320 is tax deductible†)

Rose Level* -- \$5,000

An invitation for two to attend the Director's Reception and Dinner at the gardens.
Use of the gardens for a social event for up to 200 guests at no charge. †† (\$4500 is tax deductible†)

Life Membership

An invitation for two to attend the Director's Reception and dinner at the gardens. Use of the gardens for a social event for up to 200 guests. †† Recognition with a plaque in the gardens.
1 - \$10,000 one time payment.
2 - 10 annual installments of \$1,250 each
3 - Cumulative gifts exceeding \$15,000.

* At this level, payments may be made quarterly.

† Estimated for Federal Income Tax purposes. Consult a tax advisor.

†† Arrangements to be mutually agreed upon.

Benefits at any level may be waived to maximize tax deduction.

April

Please cut out and return with your check to:
Schedel Foundation, P.O. Box 81, Elmore, OH 43416

2007

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail Address _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for my membership at the _____ level.

\$ _____ my donation for general garden improvements

\$ _____ potted flower arrangements or urns

_____ I am interested in Volunteer Work. Please contact me with more information.

Home & Garden Show 2007

Through the kindness of a stranger, Rob Attewell, VP of Expositions Inc., Schedel Arboretum & Gardens was invited to participate in the 2007 Home & Garden Show at the IX Center in Cleveland. The event ran from Saturday, February 2nd to Sunday, February 11th. This was the 64th Annual Home & Garden Show. We set up a beautiful display booth and met hundreds of potential new guests. Many Schedel brochures were handed out as well as brochures for the Village of

Elmore & Bench's Greenhouse to eager & cheerful inquirers. A special thanks goes out to our volunteers: Elaine Mylander, Shirley Beck, Blair &



Anita Miller, Don & Vickie Johnson, Ellen Stella, Ann Ferguson, Lori & Peggy Skees, Reg & Sherry Noble, Troy & Veronica Sheets and Larry & Phyllis Coats, who gave their time and support by manning our booth for long, 10-hour shifts. Without them we would not have been able to take advantage of this promotional opportunity. We hope to participate in the show again next year. One thing we can say for sure is that a lot more people now know about our gardens, and where Elmore, Ohio is.

2007 Sculpture Exhibit

The 7th annual Sculpture in the Garden exhibition will be ready for our opening May 1st. New for 2007, the show focuses on the central theme, *Small yet Mighty*. Exhibition curator David Eichenberg was inspired to select works that are harmonious with the intimate settings the garden offers. Sixteen works by nine artists will showcase sculptures less than 9 feet in height. Both established and emerging regional artists will be showing works that demonstrate bigger is not always better, that sculpture does not need to be large to be monumental.

Returning artists to the garden are Robert Garcia, James Havens, and Tom Lingeman. New to the garden sculpture exhibition are artists Jason Arbogast, Heather Hughes, Toni Lucadello, Tad McKillop, J. Doug Patterson, and Tim Stover. Works range from figurative bronze works to abstract steel and glass pieces.

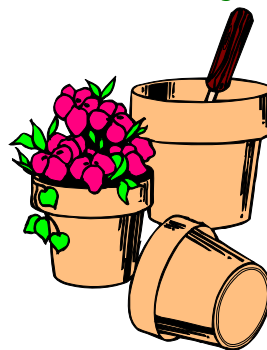
The sculpture exhibition will be on view throughout the summer. A meet the artists reception will be held in late May or early June. Let us know if you wish to be invited.

What Happened Around Schedels Over the Winter?

- Retaining wall repair
- David attended class on Pesticides
- Natasha visited her family in Russia
- David & Susan got married
- Canada Geese came to visit
- Dr. Noble got chased by the swans
- Sherry retired
- Marv dealt with golf cart dilemmas

Composting Compost – We Are Offering a Clinic!

Many of us would like to have a compost pile but do not know where to begin. Ottawa County Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring a Composting Clinic to be held in the Trellis Gallery on May 22nd. Two sessions will be offered. The morning session will run from 10 – 12, and the evening session is set for 6:30 to 8:30. The program will include a class presentation by Deb Haubert of the Sandusky County Parks District, a break for refreshments, followed by a guided garden tour conducted by Elaine Mylander. To register for the class go to www.recycleoss.org, or contact Jamie Coleman at 888-850-7224. Class size is limited and registration (\$5.00 per person) is required. The clinic should be a wonderful learning tool for all. Hope to see you there.



Help Us Create More Flower Pots this Year

Each year Susan does a great job doing special plant combinations in flower pots placed in special locations around the gardens. This year she would like to substantially increase the number and we need donations to purchase the plant materials. Donations of \$25, \$50, \$100 (or more) will be recognized by naming a pot or urn after the donor. Susan says, "please help".

Schedel Arboretum & Gardens

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Bee Mystery???

Honeybees are disappearing, and beekeepers and crop growers are scrambling to find out why. During 2006, beekeepers noticed an alarming number of bee colony losses. Further investigations have found that these outbreaks were experienced by beekeepers for at least the last two years. Beekeeping literature documents similar outbreaks as long ago as 1896, but under different names such as disappearing disease, spring dwindle, May disease, autumn collapse, and fall dwindle disease. CCD has been found in 20 of the 50 states, with many beekeepers reporting losses of 50-80% or more. Once healthy colonies are found deserted just days later, with no sign of dead or dying bees. Sometimes only the queen and a few young bees remain in a stand which only days

before consisted of 30,000 or so members. Recently coined Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) because there is no recognizable underlying cause, a range of theories is being



explored, including viruses, fungus, mites, poor bee nutrition, pesticides, and bee stress. Some think that for whatever reasons, the complex social structure of the hive breaks down. This problem threatens the pollina-

tion industry and production of commercial honey. The economic value of honey, wax and other bee products is trivial in comparison with the honeybee's services as a pollinator. More than 90 crops in North America rely on honeybees to transport pollen from flower to flower, effecting fertilization and allowing production of fruit and seed. One study says that honeybees annually pollinate more than \$14 billion worth of seeds and crops in US, mostly fruits, vegetables and nuts. A working group of university faculty researchers, state regulatory officials, cooperative extension educators and industry representatives is working to identify the cause or causes of Colony Collapse Disorder and to develop management strategies and recommendations for beekeepers.