



Telling the Bees

This is an old tradition among beekeepers to “Tell the Bees” whenever a change happens in the beekeepers family. If you Google “Telling the Bees” you will find a poem from the 1800’s about this subject. Hopefully this will be some small way to recognize fellow beekeepers as they pass on.

For those who have visited the Scioto Valley Beekeepers extraction tent at the Lithopolis Honeyfest, you likely talked to Daniel Cottrell. He was a chatty and congenial host who never tired of answering questions about beekeeping or honey extraction. We lost Dan unexpectedly September 15, 2013, a week after he talked to the crowds at last year’s Honeyfest. He was a successful beekeeper for years in Pickaway County as well as keeping hives in Tennessee. He was Vice President of Scioto Valley Beekeepers and helped organize the honey extraction demonstrations every year. You could ask him anything and he had a smile for everyone along with a tall tale. Dan also designed the club’s logo.

He was born on June 2, 1947 in nearby Lockbourne, the son of Walter and Roberta (Starkey) Cottrell. He owned and with his wife Dawn, operated “Dans’s Septic Service” for 36 years. He was a member of Christian Family Pioneers for over 30 years, enjoyed primitive camping, educating youth in living history, singing around the campfire and fellowshiping with friends. Whatever the camp song, he knew all the words.

This year is the inaugural Lithopolis Honeyfest honey judging contest. The Best of Show winner will receive the Dan Cottrell memorial award.

