

**Buzzin' About**

**March 2019**

# The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

## Newsletter

**Monday, March 4, 2019**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Brokner Nature Center**

### **Agenda**

Updates on club matters  
Swarm List Sign-up  
Membership Renewals  
Bee Bucks  
Etc

### **Guest Speaker:**

OSBA Traveling Speaker Mark Beougher

### **Topic:**

Hobbyist Queen Rearing

#### **MVBA CONTACTS**

##### **President**

Dan Richardson

##### **Vice President**

Chrystal Reese

##### **Secretary**

Katie Stefaniak

##### **Treasurer**

Francisco "John" Martinez

##### **At Large**

Jeff Gehret

Michelle Zindorf

##### **Newsletter**

Terry Lieberman-Smith

##### **Apiary Managers**

Patrick Reese

Mike Smoot

**Renew your membership**

Can't attend  
February's meeting?

Use the renewal form  
on page 7.

### **Planning For A Great 2019 Beekeeping Year:**

#### **Packages and Nucs**

Steve Johnson will be heading down to Georgia 4 times this year to pick up packages. #3 Italian packages are \$115.00 Visit [www.olddrone.net](http://www.olddrone.net) for complete details.



## President's Letter

Those going to the Tricounty Beekeepers workshop on March 1 and 2 will have a chance to hear Dr Samuel Ramsey explain why everything we know about Varroa Destructor is wrong. Well, not everything. He has, however, made great strides in our understanding of Varroa's dietary needs which will revolutionize research into how to deal with it. As he says, we are using a wooden stake when we need a silver bullet.

For those not going to the workshop, he will be speaking at a special meeting of the Knox County Beekeepers Association. This event will be on March 3 at 1:00. It will take place at Hunter Hall at 211 South Main Street, Mount Vernon Ohio. I would encourage anyone who can to go, then bring the new information back to us.

Our Treasurer, John Martinez has expressed the need to bow out. We need someone who is willing and able to take on the duties of Treasurer. John has stated that he can assist whoever takes over with getting up to speed.

March is upon us, do you have your equipment ready for the flow? Is your swarm equipment ready to load up? Remember that the swarm spreadsheet will be out again at the March meeting before it is sent out to various organizations. Also, if you are willing to be a mentor, or need a mentor, sign up at the table in the back.



**Dr. Samuel Ramsey**

### **MVBA Swarm List- An Added Benefit of Being an MVBA Member**

It pays to be an MVBA member! Sign-up at the March meeting. The list will be posted on the MVBA website, and sent out wide and far to fire departments, police departments, parks, townships, etc.



**MIAMI VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Secretary Report**  
**Katie Stafiniak, Secretary**  
**February 2019**

7:07 Meeting begun by president Dan Richardson

Introduction of Dean the Miami County apiary inspector for 2019  
 Reminder to register apiaries. If you choose to no longer keep bees mail in your notice stating so.

Becky from Bruckner: final inspection on the quarantine building (with a storage room for our club) is scheduled for this week; work is still being done on it. Tentative opening date of April 1, 2019  
 Next Dine to Donate is February 20, 5-9:00pm at Buffalo Wild Wings 2313 West Main Street, Troy OH

Steve Johnson of Old Drone: order forms are available for new packages

Vickie Bowman: beginner beekeeping class February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Miami Valley Parks District

John Martinez: treasurer's report

Patrick Reese, MVBA apiary manager: will investigate our club bees when the weather warms. Observed 2 hives before going into winter and they were still buzzing around late December.

Terry Lieberman-Smith of OSBA: sign up for the swarm list

"This Month in the Apiary" Patrick Reese

February

- Register your apiary
- If we are having good weather, lift the top and check for food
- Bees are active and hungry in warm weather, check for food and feed often
- Clear snow from the entrance
- Have your bees died? Inspect why this happened; too much condensation? Froze out? Disease?
- Build equipment, clean and fix old equipment, order new equipment
- Take a class; we are always learning new tips and techniques

Make a plan or set of goals for the year

March

Feed your bees  
 Check for brood only if its warm  
 Build swarm traps  
 7:26 break

7:40 "Spring Out of Winter" - Terry Lieberman-Smith

Time to plan; journal, record keeping, paperwork, make notes and keep a record of your progress

Goals? Splits, honey production, increases, nucs: what do you strive for this year  
 Stay ahead of your equipment needs, fix it, buy it, build it ahead of time

Look for conferences: Tri-county, Indiana, etc.  
 Analyze winter bee losses and avoid making the same mistakes: Meghan Milbrath- Analyzing your hive

[www.beeinformed.org/2016/03/08why-did-my-honey-bees-die/](http://www.beeinformed.org/2016/03/08why-did-my-honey-bees-die/)

Provide nice, clean equipment; it is healthier and safer

Scrape old propolis from boxes and frames  
 Swarm control

Your bees will be eating lots over the next 2 months

Nectar flow: find out when your will be  
 Good food = healthy bees = more antiseptic hive

8:22 Meeting ended

## Win-Win Situation:

# Spring Food for Your Bees - Fall Forage for Local Wildlife

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TOWNSHIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAY PHONE (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 Send me *THE COOPERATOR* via E-Mail   
 HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT OUR TREE SALE?  NEWSLETTER  FACEBOOK  
 VALPAK  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

# OF PACKS	SPECIES: New species in CAPS	TREES PER Pack	COST PER PACK	TOTAL Amount \$ owed
	<b>DECIDUOUS</b>			
	ARROWWOOD	2	\$5	
	bittersweet	2	\$5	
	black elderberry	2	\$5	
	SUMMERSWEET	2	\$5	
	<b>NORTHERN PECAN</b>	2	\$6	
	blueberry highbush	2	\$6	
	American hazelnut	3	\$6	
	paw paw	3	\$6	
	black walnut	5	\$8	
	common lilac	5	\$8	
	ohio buckeye	5	\$8	
	serviceberry - Allegheny	5	\$8	
	<b>WHITE OAK</b>	5	\$8	
	shagbark hickory	5	\$8	
	SUGAR MAPLE	5	\$8	
	bald cypress (Deciduous Conifer)	10	\$10	
	RED CEDAR	10	\$10	
	<b>CONIFERS</b>			
	colorado blue spruce	10	\$10	
	white pine	25	\$25	
	norway spruce	25	\$25	
	<b>PERRENNIALS</b>			
	bee balm	1	\$10	
	butterfly weed	1	\$10	
	CARDINAL FLOWER	1	\$10	
	coneflower	1	\$10	
	CREeping PHLOX - CANDY STRIPE	1	\$10	
	LITTLE BLUE STEM	1	\$10	

**Ordering DEADLINE:**  
Friday 3/15/19 (postmarked)

TOTAL \$ ENCLOSED  
(All prices include sales tax)



Send Order Form w/ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:  
**Miami SWCD**  
1330 N. CR 25A, Sta C, Troy OH 45373

### GUIDELINES:

- Anyone may order these 1-3 year old bare-root seedlings.
- Immediate care is advised.
- Substitutions possible with shortages.
- Customer may exchange or request a refund.
- Payment w/ order by CASH, CHECK or MONEY ORDER.
- No orders via phone or e-mail.

**PICK-UP YOUR TREES @**  
Duke Lundgard Bldg  
Miami Co Fairgrounds, Troy  
MON. 4/8: 2P-6P  
TUE. 4/9: 8A-6P  
**EXTRA TREES SOLD ALL DAY TUE. 4/9!**



MIAMI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FIND ADDITIONAL ORDER FORMS @ **SWCD & ONLINE**  
937/335-7645

info@miamiswcd.org  
www.miamiswcd.org

KEEP THIS PORTION AS A REMINDER

Plant trees this Spring, for next year's early pollen and nectar forage for your bees! Most County Soil and Water Departments have a great assortment that is easy on your pocket! Here's a sample of trees available from Miami County.

See page 7 of this newsletter for more info.

<http://www.miamiswcd.org/2019treeseedlingorderform.jpg>

Your bees will thank you.

## Prairie Strips Transform Farmland Conservation Converting Low-Profit Land Bring Big Returns: from Kim Flottum's Catch the Buzz

Modern agriculture's large monoculture fields grow a lot of corn and soybeans, planted annually. The outputs from row crops can be measured both in dollars paid in the market and also in non-market costs, known as externalities. Soil, nutrients, groundwater, pollinators, wildlife diversity, and habitat (among other things) can be lost when crop yields are maximized.

Now it appears that prairie strips have an extraordinary power to change this pattern.

A prairie strip is much what it sounds like: a strip of diverse herbaceous vegetation running through a farm's rowcrops. In the American Midwest, chances are the soil that now supports crops was once covered in prairie before cultivation. Prairie plants are a mixture of native grasses, wildflowers, and other stiff-stemmed plants. They have deep roots that draw water and nutrients from far below the surface. They are perennials, returning to grow each spring.

"Research shows that areas of native prairie planted in the right places in a farm field can provide benefits that far outweigh losses from converting a small portion of a crop field to prairie," said Lisa Schulte Moore of Iowa State University. "For example, when we work with farmers to site prairie strips on areas that were not profitable to farm, we can lower their financial costs while creating a wide variety of benefits."

Schulte Moore is a team member with STRIPS: Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips. STRIPS showed that converting just 10% of a row-cropped field to prairie strips:

- Reduces soil loss by 95%,
- Reduces overland water flow by 37%, and
- Reduces the loss of two key nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) from the soil by nearly 70% and 77%, respectively.

It also leads to greater abundance and diversity of beneficial insects, pollinators such as bees and monarch butterflies, and birds. Going from zero to 10% prairie provided far more than a 10% increase in the measured benefits.

"Some of these benefits can impact our pocketbooks but are not accounted for by typical financial markets," said Schulte Moore. These include ecological benefits such as flood control, cleaner water, and carbon from the atmosphere stored.



Market benefits also exist: more productive soil in the fields can, in time, translate into better yields, fiber and honey production, forage for livestock, and hunting leases.

The STRIPS research began in Iowa in 2007. Because of promising scientific results, five years later the researchers began working with farmers to introduce prairie strips onto commercial farms. While the research results have been more variable in these more complicated settings, the findings are encouraging and cooperating farmers are liking what they see.

The plantings require a modest investment in site preparation and seed planting. Maintenance tasks include some mowing in the establishment years and spot treatment for weeds. So far, the researchers have not seen competition between the prairie plants and crops that impact yield.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts through the USDA's Farm Service Agency can greatly reduce the cost of establishing prairie strips. Overall, Schulte Moore said, this is one of the most economical best-practice conservation steps farmers can take.

Still, lack of stable financial rewards for establishing and maintaining prairie strips is a barrier to widespread adoption. "Finding ways to return economic value to farmers and farmland owners is crucial," Schulte Moore said. She is now focused on developing marketable products from prairie strips, such as renewable energy sources from prairie biomass. That would help make what is already a solid investment into a can't lose proposition.



## Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

**Pollen Sources:** Alder, Elm, Maple, Forsythia

**Nectar and Pollen:** Dogwood, Crabapple, Willow, Dandelion

<http://www.darkeswcd.com/tree-seedlings.html>

<http://www.montgomeryswcd.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SaundersSeed/>

[Www.fedco.com](http://www.fedco.com)

<http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/ohio-pollinator-oasis-seed-packet/>

<https://www.groworganic.com/>




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## The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

### March

- Continue emergency feeding, if necessary.
- Feed pollen supplements or substitutes, if needed.
- First quick inspection of brood nest, if weather permits.
- Check for and clean up dead colonies.
- Clean out entrances and bottom boards.
- Attend conferences

### April

- Monitor colony stores, esp. if weather is cold & wet.
- Inspect brood nest for laying queen, disease, etc
- Introduce package bees on drawn combs.
- Requeen colonies with failing queens.
- Reverse brood chambers when weather moderates.
- Add supers to strong colonies at maple or dandelion bloom.
- Unite weak colonies.
- Equalize strength of all colonies.

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## We Want Your Input!

Want to submit an article for the MVBA newsletter? Please send your article to Newsletter Editor: Terry Lieberman-Smith [matasmith@woh.rr.com](mailto:matasmith@woh.rr.com).



## Bee-ing a Step Ahead



Remember to register your hives:

<https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/forms/>

Our Official Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/miamivalleybeekeepers/>

### Miami Valley Beekeepers Association Membership Form 2019

Membership dues are \$20 per calendar year

Membership benefits include:

- Monthly meetings (exp. For Dec/Jan) with educational speakers
- Monthly e-zine with beekeeping articles and other features
- Sponsoring public presentations
- Education in the MVBA Apiary
- and more!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks out to: Miami Valley Beekeepers Association and Remit Payment to:

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association  
 900 Antioch School Rd  
 Vandalia OH 45377

# Seasonal Resource Page

## Winter Feeding

### Home-Made version of Honey Bee Healthy (adapted from Beesource)

5 cups water  
2 ½ pounds of sugar  
15 drops spearmint oil  
15 drops lemongrass oil

Heat the water to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in the sugar until dissolved. Once the sugar water has cooled, add the essential oils. Stir until everything is evenly distributed.

This solution should have a strong scent and not be left open around bees.

Cool completely before using.

I store this concentrate in the fridge -label it so that your family doesn't drink it!!

Approx. dosage: 1 tsp per quart of 1:1 sugar syrup for feeding

### Marshmallow Bee Fondant

3 bags (10.5 oz) marshmallows  
½ c. water  
4 pounds confectioners sugar  
1 t. Homemade mix from recipe above

Put marshmallows in a microwave safe bowl. Bowl needs to be large because marshmallows will puff up and cause a mess if they overflow. Pour water over marshmallows. Microwave, 20 seconds at a time, until melted.

Carefully remove from microwave. Stir in powdered sugar and honeebhealthy. Once it is difficult to stir, turn out on cutting board or countertop that has been dusted with confectioner's sugar. Knead in remaining sugar.

Coat the fondant with a light layer of shortening to help keep it moist. Wrap in several layers of plastic wrap.

## Sugar Bricks

*Notes: Have candy mold prepared ahead of time. This stuff hardens quickly*

### Directions:

- Bring 11 oz of water to full boil
- Add 1 T white vinegar
- Slowly add 1 five-pound bag of white sugar, **stirring all the time**
- Continue stirring until it reaches **242 degrees** .
- **Be careful with this hot mixture.**

Shovel the mixture into a candy board or mold that is lined with waxed paper (I used a jelly roll pan) and let sit to cool off. If you want to cut it into smaller pieces, do so **before** it cools completely.

The outside of the cooking container will cool down first and needs to be scraped out , or the cleanup is difficult.

You can also add 1 t. of the homemade Honey Bee Healthy, to the sugar bricks .

For optional ingredients, or larger recipe, go to [www.mdasplitter.com/docs/candy.pdf](http://www.mdasplitter.com/docs/candy.pdf)