

**Buzzin' About**

**April 2018**

# The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

## **MVBA CONTACTS**

### **President**

Robert Dorsten

### **Vice President**

Lydia Pleiman

### **Secretary**

Chrystal Reese

### **Treasurer**

Francisco "John" Martinez

### **Executive Board**

Jeff Gerhart

Katie Stefaniak

### **Newsletter**

Terry Lieberman-Smith

### **Apiary Managers**

Jeff Mahar

Katie Stefaniak

**Monday, April 2, 2018**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Brukner Nature Center**

## **Agenda**

Club Updates  
Membership Renewals  
Bee Bucks  
Etc

**Guest Speaker:**  
Terry Lieberman-Smith

**Topic:**  
The Lies We Tell Ourselves-  
or How Not to be Successful

**Renew your membership**

Can't attend this month's meeting?

Use the renewal form  
on page 7.

## President's Letter

Spring is here! Now that the weather is warm enough the goats have started grazing on pasture, the chickens have picked up their egg laying routine again, and in just 3 short weeks we will start to have the first dandelion blooms to truly kick off our season.

First-year beekeepers: you'll likely be receiving your packages in a few weeks; don't forget to feed your bees 1:1 syrup. They will need this to get going and start drawing out foundation to have a place to store honey and pollen for next winter.

Second-year beekeepers: If you haven't already done so, make sure your honey supers are built and your frames are ready to go. This is likely to be the first year that you'll have honey and if you wait to build your equipment till the girls are pulling in nectar, you risk swarming. In our area, I put the first honey super on about the same time dandelions bloom to make sure they have plenty of space.

Don't forget to involve the little beekeepers in your lives in the beekeeping process. For those of you who regularly check the MVBA Facebook page, you've seen pictures of my 3 year old son assisting in building frames, painting boxes, and rolling out pollen patties. I am

amazed at how quickly he picks things up and how excited he is to help. He's also excited to sample the honey, but that's a different story. We recently started to look at preschools for him. One of the schools we visited has their own apiary on site. It was neat to see how excited all the kids were about the bees and the projects they are planning to do with gardening and wildflowers to provide a pollinator-friendly habitat. I know it's cliché, but the children are the future of beekeeping so it's important to get them interested early.

If you've ordered too many frames or foundation, extra hive tools, bee suits, some rendered wax from your hives, feel free to bring them to our monthly meetings. Every month we setup a table in the back of the room for just this purpose. It's an easy way to make a few extra dollars. The only thing that we ask is that you please don't bring any used boxes or frames. These should always be inspected by the county inspector prior to sale to prevent the spread of disease.

I'll look forward to seeing everyone on April 2!

Robert Dorsten  
MVBA President

## Bees In The News - Science News

It was one of the flashiest mysteries in the news about a decade ago — honeybee workers were vanishing fast for no clear reason. To this day, that puzzle has never been entirely solved, researchers acknowledge.

And maybe it never will be. Colony collapse disorder, or CCD, as the sudden mass honeybee losses were called, has faded in recent years as mysteriously as it began. It's possible the disappearances could start up again, but meanwhile bees are facing other problems.

CCD probably peaked around 2007 and faded since, says Jeff Pettis, who during the heights of national curiosity was running the Beltsville, Md.,

honeybee lab for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research wing. And five years have passed since Dennis vanEngelsdorp, who studies bee health at the University of Maryland in College Park, has seen a "credible case" of colony collapse....

No single menace, however, could be tightly linked to every sick colony, or only to sick colonies. Varroa mites, small hive beetles, Nosema fungi, deformed wing virus, unusual signs of pesticide exposure, for instance—screening techniques at the time just weren't picking up a clear pattern in any of these bee bedevillments.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## MVBA Meeting Minutes Chrystal Reese, Secretary March 5, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7 PM by President, Robert Dorsten. There were 107 guests and members in attendance.

Announcements for March:

Members, please sign up for the swarm list, if you're interested. Terry Lieberman-Smith maintains the list.

The MVBA Apiary was moved to allow for the barn demo and construction.

Robert Dorsten will be presenting the Beginning Beekeeping talk that he presented to the club at the Tipp City Library Thursday March 8, 2018 at 7pm.

Robert brought his frame jig for those members who would like to see his set-up.

The May meeting speaker and topic was confirmed and will be the OSBA presenter on Apiary Sustainability with Nucs.

Robert opened the floor for question and answer time.

Q: If you add fruit, blueberries for example, to your honey, does it then need to be refrigerated?

A: Yes, when adding additional moisture to honey, it should be refrigerated.

The speaker for March was Tony Rimkus. He discussed how to determine why a hive may have died out, how to prevent it, and how to prepare your hives for the coming season.

- Main reasons for overwintering loss are unhealthy bees going into winter, lack of food, too few bees in colony (possibly related to health).

- A colony that has been treated for mites stands a much greater chance of survival than one that hasn't. The bees will naturally die off but there will still be enough to cluster and cover brood if the loss isn't exaggerated by being unhealthy.

- Bees should be treated in the fall for mites so there is sufficient time to raise ample healthy bees before it gets cold enough to cluster.

- Of the two popular methods for treating for mites, oxalic acid and Mite-away strips, there is no evidence one method works better than the other for fall treatment.

- Bees have a greater chance of surviving the winter if they are fed. Put winter patties on in early November and the bees will use it first, leaving the honey in the combs for deep winter. Hive beetles will not be a problem because they will not be multiplying at that time of year.

- If bee feces is spotted on the frames, the bees may have had Nosema. Be sure to clean the frames well so the bees do not have to do it themselves and can more quickly get about the business of raising brood and making honey. Treat with a bleach water solution to kill any possible Nosema spores.

- If cells on a frame have leveled out and are no longer sloped, destroy the frame. It could indicate scale, which can lead to American Foul Brood. Better safe than sorry.

- If there is mouse damage to a frame, clean and reuse. The bees will rebuild the comb.

- Leftover capped honey from a dead-out can be reused. If the honey was in place during mite treatment in the fall, do not eat the honey. Let the bees have it.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## CATCH THE BUZZ – U.S. Honey Production Down 9 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies in 2017.

U.S. honey production in 2017 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 9 percent from 2016. There were 2.67 million colonies producing honey in 2017, down 4 percent from 2016. Yield per colony averaged 55.3 pounds, down 5 percent from the 58.3 pounds in 2016.

Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 30.6 million pounds on December 15, 2017, down 26 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Operations with Less than Five Colonies Produced 599 Thousand Pounds of Honey in 2017

United States honey production in 2017 from producers with less than five colonies totaled 599 thousand pounds, down 22 percent from 2016. There were 20 thousand colonies from which honey was harvested in 2017, down 17 percent from 2016.

The average yield was 30.0 pounds per colony in 2017, down 6 percent from the previous year. Honey Prices Up 2 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies in 2017 United States honey prices decreased during 2017 to 215.6 cents per pound, up 2 percent from 211.9 cents per pound.

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## Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

**Nectar:** Mustards

**Pollen:** Poplars, Willows, Oak, Cedar, Junipers

**Pollen and Nectar:** Apple Trees, Chickweed, Hackberry Trees, Dandelion, Redbud Trees

Want to know what is blooming in your area? Know what's blooming and you can plan your honey crop (or if you need to feed your girls)

<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>



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*Bees in the News Continued from page 2)*

Pettis now sees the disaster as a two-step process. Various stressors such as poor nutrition and pesticide exposure weakened bees so much that a virus, maybe IAPV, could quickly kill them in droves. Evans, too, sees various stressors mixing and matching. When pressed for his best guess, he says “all of the above.”

Cox-Foster has managed to re-create part of the process, the vanishing effect that marked the end for stressed bees. When she infected honeybee colonies in a greenhouse with a virus, the sick bees left the hive but were trapped by the greenhouse walls before dispersing too far to be found. (Of course, this experiment doesn't demonstrate how colonies with no sign of a virus died.)

That tendency for sick bees to leave hives, vanEngelsdorp proposes, could have developed as a hygiene benefit. “Altruistic suicide,” as social-insect biologists call it. Flying away from the colony could minimize a sick bee's tendency to pass disease to the rest of the family....

Classic CCD may not be much threat these days, but the “four p's” — poor nutrition, pesticides, pathogens and parasites — are, says Cox-Foster, now at a USDA lab for pollinating insects in Logan, Utah.

Read the complete article at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/mystery-vanishing-honeybees-still-not-definitively-solved>

## The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

### 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

### May

- Monitor colonies for queen cells
- Control swarming
- Add more supers as needed (oversuper)
- Place queen excluder below shallow super on colonies for comb honey
- Install packages on foundation.
- Split strong colonies
- Capture swarms
- Cull and replace defective combs with full sheets of foundation
- Begin implementing an IPM program for the control of mites
- Add room for bees, either by honey supers, or deeps - remember the 7/10 rule - when they have filled 7 of the 10 frames, its time to add space!

## MVBA Apiary Report

The club bees are still doing well. They continue to feast on winter patties and are located at Wanamacher Reserve. Still unsure as to when they will be returned to Bruckner. Our goal is to do 2 splits, and then purchase a package for mid-April.

## Meeting Minutes *(Continued from page 3)*

In summary, look where the cluster was in relation to where the honey is.

Was the cluster too small? Why?

Is there evidence the bees were sick? Mites, nosema

Was there capped honey or did they use it all?

Next meeting is April 2: The Lies We Tell Ourselves, or How Not to Be a Successful Beekeeper – Terry Lieberman-Smith

## MVBA EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN KIT

Members of the MVBA have had emergencies where they have had to either move their hives or seal them for what ever reason. The executive board has decided to have a plan in effect if this happens again.

MVBA is putting together an emergency kit and call list to assist members if they are in need of assistance in an emergency.

WHAT KIND OF EMERGENCY: flood / vandalism / wind damage / insecticide spraying / etc

WHO GETS HELP : only members who sign up to volunteer. There will be a sign up sheet. On

the sheet you will be asked how you can help (eg. Labor, truck, trailer, experience) your name and phone number. No emails

INFO NEEDED WHEN CALLING FOR HELP : where, when, why, and what help is needed. Do the hives need moved or sealed or just put back together.

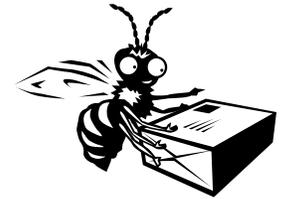
ITEMS IN THE KIT : screen, staples and staple gun, duct tape, straps, shims, entrance reducer  
***We are looking for someone to help manage this great program please contact: [miami-valleybeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:miami-valleybeekeepers@gmail.com)***

### Miami Valley Beekeepers Association Treasurer Report March 2018 Francisco Martinez, Treasurer

Checking Account	Total Holdings	Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct 1 Mar 2018	\$ 2,003.94	\$ 149.50 Beginning Balance 1 Mar 2018
<b>Income</b>		<b>Income during Meeting</b>
\$ -		\$ 180.00 Memberships (Cash)
		\$ 80.00 Membership Checks (3086, 2121, 1486, 607)
		\$ 0.50 Donation from Martinez to even cash box
Total for Deposit \$ -		\$ 260.50 Total meeting income (cash/checks recieved)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 260.50</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Expenses</b>
FB account fees (ad, check 1428 to Robert Dorsten for membership Ad placement)	\$ (25.00)	\$ -
Membership mailouts (vista print mailer/shipping check 1427 to Robert Dorsten)	\$ (229.19)	\$ -
	\$ -	
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits \$ (254.19)		\$ - Total Cashbox Withdrawals
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (254.19)</b>	
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ 260.00	\$ (260.00) Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance 24 Mar 2018 \$ 1,860.25		\$ 150.00 Ending Cash Balance 24 Mar 2018
Monthly total Net change	\$ 6.31	
Previous month Net funds	\$ 2,003.94	
Sum ballance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)	\$ 2,010.25	this acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
<b>MVBA Total Holdings 25 Feb 2018(Checking balance + Cash Ballance)</b>	<b>\$2,010.25</b>	

This reporting period we continued to collect membership dues from both old and new members, which helped to offset the costs associated with this years membership drive. Of note, we have also given more than \$1,000 worth of promotional memberships to students of our club sponsored classes this year. Now that we don't have to procure our own insurance (we are covered by the OSBA as an affiliate), the bulk of our next anticipated costs will be associated with keeping our club apiary in good health. For those of you that had colonies survive the winter, remember to register your apiary with ODA. (The cost is only \$5.00 per location)

# Bee-ing a Step Ahead



Remember to register your hives:

[http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public\\_docs/forms/plant/Plnt\\_4201-002.pdf](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public_docs/forms/plant/Plnt_4201-002.pdf)

Our Official Facebook Page:

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

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|---------------------|---|
| April 2 –           | The Lies We Tell Ourselves - Terry Lieberman-Smith                                      |
| May 7 –             | OSBA Sustainable Beekeeping: Nucs - Tim Arheit  |
| June 4 –            | Using Wax and Honey in Soaps and Lotions - Tanya Brown with Living Simply Soap          |
| July 2 –            | Pest Management and Tips for a Healthy Hive   |
| August 5 (SUNDAY) – | Annual Honey Harvest  |
| September 10–       | Bee Anatomy and Intelligence vs Instinct – Vickie Bowman with Ohio Buckeye Belle Queens |
| October 1 –         | To Be Determined  |
| November 5 –        | Member Carry-In, Officer Elections, Bee Buck Raffle.                                    |

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## Miami Valley Beekeepers Association Membership Form 2018

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

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Address

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Phone

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Email

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

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

900 Antioch School Rd

Vandalia OH 45377