

**Buzzin' About**

**April 2019**

# The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

## **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

**Monday, April 1, 2019  
7:00 p.m.  
Brukner Nature Center**

## **Agenda**

Club Updates  
Membership Renewals  
Bee Bucks  
Etc

**Guest Speaker:  
Dave Allen**

**Topic:**  
Controlling Mites without Chemicals: A close  
look at Mighty Mite Killer

**Renew your membership**

Can't attend this month's meeting?

Use the renewal form  
on page 6.

## President's Letter

Welcome to spring! Beekeepers look forward to this season of possibilities, after a long cold winter. We finally passed 34 Growing degree days on the 15<sup>th</sup>, so the girls should be busy collecting forage from these early pollen and nectar sources. This month we'll be welcoming Dave Allen from Greene County to talk about chemical free mite control. In May we have invited Mark Beougher from Greater Grand Lake to return with a talk on capturing swarms.

I'd like everyone to pencil two dates in on their calendars. Sunday August 4 is our annual honey harvest. Lydia Pleimen, who organized an amazing event last year, has volunteered to organize our Honey Harvest again this year. She is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with this outreach opportunity, so please get with her to let her know what you can do to help (lydia.pleiman@gmail.com).

Saturday, September 21, is the Kettering HoneyFest. We'll be setting up a club booth, and I'll be organizing this event for the

club. Please get with me to let me know what you can do. Those who volunteer at the booth, and put proof of insurance on file with Kettering will be able to sell their own hive products out of our booth during their volunteer time.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dan Richardson

MVBA President

## 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.

## 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/>



**MVBA Meeting Minutes**  
**Katie Stefaniak, Secretary**  
**March 4, 2019**

7:00 Meeting begun by MVBA President Dan Richardson

Terry Lieberman-Smith, OSBA President : paid OSBA members can join the swarm list, visit the OSBA website for lots of beekeeping information <https://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org>

Dan Richardson: we currently have 68 paid MVBA members

Sign up for the mentor/mentee program.

Vickie Bowman has another beginner beekeeping class March 23, 2019 at Miami Valley Parks.

Proposed bylaw amendment; Section 3.03(d) from "an annual audit" to "an annual financial reconciliation" and this was approved and passed unanimously, please see bylaws for more information.

Deb from Bruckner: Bruckner has a newsletter with all their upcoming events and fundraisers, please check it out to support our friends and wildlife.

<http://www.bruknernaturecenter.com/events---programs.html>

Dan Richardson: we are currently taking suggestions for a possible new location for our club meetings, looking for seating for 150 people, available to have our club hives on site and storage, and accessible for current members, heat map of current members show high traffic around I-75.

Looking for a new name for our newsletter, taking suggestions.

Steve Johnson, from Old Drone: packages available for pick up March 27<sup>th</sup>, and April 9<sup>th</sup>; get your order forms in.

John Martinez (former) treasurer; we have 68 paid members, and will be ordering 2 packages for our apiary from Old Drone, treasury report, due to schedule conflicts John would like to step down from treasury position.

Dan Richardson: looking for a new MVBA Treasurer, Brian Willis volunteers, unanimously voted in as new treasurer.

There will be a board member meeting on March 11, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Tipp City Library; all MVBA members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about our club.

Apiary Report: Patrick Reese: It has been too cold to get into the hives, using a thermal camera it appears we have one hive still warm, and possibly a small second one still alive, we have ordered 2 packages for the club apiary; tentative package installs (weather permitting); Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> 10:00am, and Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm; check Facebook for updates.

"This Month In The Apiary" Patrick Reese

### March

- Very cold this March, right now is danger time as there is not enough food out there, feed your bees pollen (but not too much)
- When its Sunny and approximately 60 degrees you can check into your hives
- Clean out dead hives, check for wax moth, critters etc.
- Register your apiary

### April

Have "50%" extra equipment  
 Always be planning, always be ready

7:25 Break

*(Continued on page 6)*

## 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
- Renew your subscription to Bee Culture and American Bee Journal (discounted if you belong to a local association)

### 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!

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## In Case You Have Not Heard.....

**Recent research from Dr. Samuel Ramsey** “*Varroa destructor* causes considerable damage to honey bees and subsequently the field of apiculture through just one process: feeding. For five decades, we have believed that these mites consume hemolymph like a tick consumes blood, and that *Varroa* cause harm primarily by vectoring viruses. Our work shows that they cause damage more directly. *Varroa* externally digest and consume fat body tissue rather than blood. These findings explain the failure of some previous attempts at developing effectively targeted treatment strategies for *Varroa* control. Furthermore, it provides some explanation for the diverse array of debilitating pathologies associated with *Varroa* that were unexplained by hemolymph removal alone. Our work provides a path forward for the development of novel treatment strategies for *Varroa*.



<https://www.pnas.org/content/116/5/1792>

## From Catch The Buzz- Canola Farmers and Beekeepers Have A Vested Interest in Cooperating and Protecting Bees As Much As Possible

*Not just for Canola Farmers - this interaction can apply to local growers, neighbors, and municipalities....*

Bees love canola and canola loves bees. That's why canola farmers and beekeepers have a vested interest in cooperating and protecting bees as much as possible. To this end, the U.S. Canola Association (USCA) – in partnership with the Honey Bee Health Coalition – is issuing “Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Pollinator Health in Canola Fields” with related materials for growers and beekeepers.

“Canola flowers produce high amounts of nectar and pollen, offering a good sugar profile for honey production and a nutritional balance of proteins and fats,” notes USCA President Rob Rynning. “Canola flowers also allow bees to feed efficiently within reasonable distances for up to a month.”

To protect these beneficial insects, canola farmers are advised in the BMPs to:

**1. Communicate and coordinate with beekeepers.** Before planting, growers should find out if hives will be placed in or near their fields. If so, they are advised to create an agreement with beekeepers to guide interactions throughout the growing season based on what, where and when they apply insecticides.

**2. Reduce exposure to pesticides.** Growers should only use insecticides when necessary as part of an Integrated Pest Management program and choose products with low toxicity to bees and short residual toxicity time. It is important to follow label instructions, use technologies and techniques to minimize drift, not mix insecticides with other pesticides, and avoid

generating dust with treated seeds. If possible, farmers should avoid spraying when bees are present, during bloom, on other flowering plants or when weather could increase risk of exposure. They should also practice good clean-up and disposal of treated seeds, insecticides and their containers.



**3. Provide safe forage.** Growing no-till canola is an ideal habitat and food source for bees. If planting cover crops, farmers are advised to add flowering plants into the mix. In non-crop areas, growing flowers, trees and shrubs is also good for

bees. Farmers should control flowering weeds prior to planting, avoid mechanical tillage where possible, and not spray non-crop areas with insecticides.

“Bees are essential for hybrid canola seed production,” adds Pat Murphy, USCA 1st vice president. “They increase seed germination, reduce green seed counts and raise oil content. Bee pollination also encourages higher canola yields with better ripening.”

# Bee-ing a Step Ahead



Remember to register your hives:

[http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public\\_docs/forms/plant/PInt\\_4201-002.pdf](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public_docs/forms/plant/PInt_4201-002.pdf)

Our Official Facebook Page:

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

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*Secretary's Report (Continued from page 3)*

- 7:40 Hobbyist Queen Rearing with speaker Mark Beougher, OSBA Traveling Speaker:  
Why raise your own queens?  
Equipment and supplies needed  
Conditions to start  
Genetic considerations  
NUC building basics  
Addressing challenges  
Different methods used

9:00 Meeting ended

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## 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

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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

2455 Piqua Troy Rd

Troy, OH 45373