

Buzzin' About

August 2018

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

MVBA CONTACTS

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Katie Stafiniak

Vickie Bowman

MVBA Honey Harvest

Honey Harvest Presentation

Sunday, August 5

2 p.m.— 4 p.m.

Help support your club!

Join MVBA for our annual Honey Harvest, August 4th and 5th. This two-day event will feature every step of the process that you will need to know to successfully extract honey from your hives.

Saturday, August 4th is our members-only day. Starting at 10am in the Brukner Apiary, Tony Rimkus will go through the process of pulling frames for maximum honey, while leaving plenty of food for your girls for the winter. Depending on the amount of honey being pulled this year, we may start the extraction immediately following our apiary session. If you can't be there on Saturday, don't worry.

There will be plenty going on from **2-4pm on Sunday, August 5th**. Everyone is invited to this packed 2 hour family-friendly event. There will be interactive and educational materials in the Brukner Main Auditorium; in addition to the honey harvest demonstration. Take a turn at the manual extractor. Taste a sample of the harvested honey. Honey will also be available for purchase during the event. **The MVBA Executive Board is looking for volunteers to staff the extractor station, set-up for the event, and assist with activities for children.** Promotional flyers are available if you would like a copy to hang in a place you frequent.

If you would like to volunteer for this event or have any questions, please contact Lydia Pleiman at

Lydia.pleiman@gmail.com or Honeyharvest2018@gmail.com.

Vice-President Notes

Despite the long winter and the late start to the season, the girls seem to be making hay while the sun shines. The nectar flow is still strong, so make sure to give your bees plenty of room to store their golden goodness. My ladies are very fond of the current catnip crop.

Small Hive Beetles (SHB) seem to be very pervasive this year. They not only stress the hive with their presence, but they eat the honey and the brood. If you smell the subtle aroma of fermentation wafting from your hives; you might just have an SHB infestation. Unlike wax moths, these invasive predators do not destroy the wax; they eat the honey. You might think you can just collect what is left. Not so. As the hive beetle eats through the hard work of your bees, they poop inside of it. This causes your honey to ferment. Don't be a victim of the SHB. Beetle traps and microfiber cloths inside the hive will help control this problem.

Thank you to everyone who submitted questions for and attended the July meeting. Thank you to our panel for fielding the club questions. Everyone please continue to submit questions.

See everyone at the Honey Harvest.

Lydia Pleiman
MVBA Vice-President

MVBA Apiary Report

Our apiary is absolutely buzzing!



Many of the hives have been getting honey supers added as they are needed. Our NUC sent the virgin queen out, and she has now returned and is laying beautifully. One of our "original" hives was re-queened on June 18th and is doing much better, and laying well. The package we installed in April and now taking on new honey supers. We are gearing up for the honey harvest and it is looking like we will be quite successful thanks to our beautiful bees!



MVBA Meeting Minutes
Chrystal Reese, Secretary
July 2, 2018

Lydia Pleiman call the meeting to order at 7 PM. There were 32 members in attendance.

Announcements for July:

- MVBA Apiary Report: Katie Stafiniak announced they made a successful split to the nuc and the queen is now laying. One of the original hives that overwintered was requeened and the package bees are doing well.
- The Honey Harvest is the first Sunday in August, August 5, 2018. Volunteers will be pulling the honey supers Saturday August 4, 2018.

Lydia monitored the Question and Answer format program. The panel of experts included Al Tuttle, Vickie Bowman, and Tony Rimkus.

Q: What are the biggest problems I should look for this time of year (mid-summer)?

A: Varroa, especially when the dearth starts. Queens may cut back on egg laying. There are many control methods for varroa, it is beekeepers preference how to treat. Monitor and be sure to treat only if you have a problem, however. The threshold for treating is 2 mites per 100 bees.

Q: How do you get rid of wax moths and hive beetles?

A: Hive beetle traps, keeping hives in the sun, Swiffer cloths are some of the methods to treat beetles. Moth infestations should be treated by scraping the foundation clean and bleaching.

Q: What is the best way to keep yellow jackets away?

A: Yellow jackets usually become a problem in August when they are raising their queens. Put a trap away from your hives.

Q: Can you leave the honey supers on when treating for mites?

A: make sure you use an approved for honey miticide. Be sure to follow the directions carefully. If using mite-away strips, please put a sign on your hive indicating treatment is in progress.

Q: How long should you wait before retreating for mites if first method wasn't completely effective?

A: You can retreat right away but you may vary the type of treatment.

Q: If your hive is killing queens, what do you do?

A: Some beekeepers recommend killing off an aggressive hive.

Q: Do you replace queens going into fall? How do you determine if a hive needs requeened?

A: Monitor hive for good queen behavior. Hives can be requeened nearly any time a problem is detected.

Q: How long do you leave a hive queenless when requeening?

A: Eight to 24 hours – recommend 24. Make sure there are no queen cells formed before introducing the queen.

Q: If there are queen cups with eggs, are they at risk of swarming?

A: The location of the queen cell is important. In the middle of the frame it's a supercedure cell. A cell on the bottom of the frame is a swarm cell.

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Q: How much drone brood is normal?

A: Approximately 2-3% of a hive is drones. Some hives will increase number of drones when they are getting ready to swarm.

Q: How does a queen find the Drone Congregation Area?

A: No one knows!

Q: How do you determine how much honey to leave on the hive?

A: Two deeps brood boxes full of bees and honey, approximately 60-80 pounds, should overwinter. Honey needs to be interspersed throughout the frames. If there are frames with no honey, put those to the outside of the hive box.

Q: How do you know when to combine hives?

A: do not combine two weak hives, combine a weak and a strong with a newspaper barrier method. It is important to determine why the hive is weak before combining, however. Do not combine a weak or sick hive with a healthy hive.

Q: What configuration do you leave hives for winter and when do you transition to that configuration?

A: Two deeps or three mediums is the common configuration for this area. In the fall, put the feeding spacer/riser on hive in preparation for when it's needed.

Q: How do you store the honey supers after honey harvest?

A: PEB moth crystals can be placed in hive body to prevent wax moths after the comb has been robbed out. The crystals may not be necessary if there is no pollen. Once they are exposed to cold there should not be a problem with moths or beetles. Extract the honey as soon as possible after removing from the hive.

Q: Should a new beekeeper use deeps? Mediums? Shallow?

A: It's beekeepers preference. Weight of a full box is taken into consideration. A new beekeeper might consider the size box they may want to lift in twenty years, as hardware is durable and expensive to replace.

Q: When do you start to feed your hives?

A: It depends on the moisture of the season. Spring feed is recommended 1:1 sugar to water, fall feeding is thicker 2:1 sugar-water. In winter, do not use liquid food.

Q: If you don't have a place to extract honey immediately, how can you store it?

A: Do not store it off the hive if possible. It could be frozen, but it's recommended that the honey be left on the hive until you're ready to extract. You can rent the club extractor if needed.

Q: When do you plant habitat for spring?

A: you can plant seed on the snow. It's actually easier to see where seed was sown. The Vandalia Historical Society has pollinator seed for purchase. They're open the first and third Sunday from 1-3pm. Seed is \$10 and covers 250 sq ft. Other seed suppliers include Saunders Seed, Terry Lavy and OSBA.

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Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

Nectar Sources: Basswood (American Linden), Yellow Sweet Clover, White Sweet Clover, Milkweed, Mints, Bergamot, Loosestrifes, Vetches,

Nectar and Pollen: Catalpa, Bramble fruits, Roses, Coneflowers, Ohio Buckeye, Rubeckia, Thistles, Hyssops, Coreopsis, Caryopteris

Pollen: St. John's Wort

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/>



The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

August

- Check colonies for disease and monitor/treat for mites
- Remove and extract summer honey crop
- Remove section Supers
- Do not work bees unless necessary to avoid robbing
- Add more supers if needed.
- Consider re-queening for a winter-ready hive.

September

- Check colonies for disease and monitor/treat for mites
- Provide supers for fall goldenrod and aster flow
- Requeen Colonies
- Unite weak colonies
- Decide winter feeding options, if needed. Prepare equipment
- Review inventory—make a wish list of equipment.

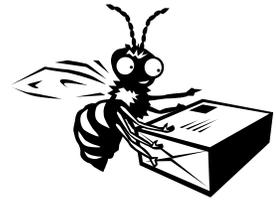
Who's Your Inspector?

From the ODA Website:

Champaign	Brad McClincy	(614) 668-5911
Clark	Jim Lyons	(614) 806-9234
Darke	Steve Brumbaugh	no contact information listed
Miami	Dean Pond	(937) 473-5053
Montgomery	Steve Hollen	(937) 371-4071
Preble	Don Popp	(513) 523-0789
Shelby	Shawn Henry	(937) 658-3262



Bee-ing a Step Ahead



Our Official Facebook Page:

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

August 5 (SUNDAY) – Annual Honey Harvest

- September 10– Preparing Your Hive For Winter – Vickie Bowman with Ohio Buckeye Belle Queens
- October 1 – To Be Determined
- November 3 OSBA Fall Conference, Tolles Career and Technical Center, Plain City, OH
- November 5 – Member Carry-In, Officer Elections, Bee Buck Raffle.

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Q: If you were starting today, what would you get to make beekeeping easier?

A: A hand truck and a honey barn would both be extremely useful, depending on amount of money to spend. Beware of fad equipment.

Q: Ants in the hive, are they bad?

A: If the bees are calm, they are not being bothered by the bees. Cinnamon is sometimes effective in inhibiting ants.

**The next meeting is the Honey Harvest August 5, 2018.
There is no meeting the first Monday of August.**

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 _____

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