

Buzzin' About

February 2018

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

Monday, February 5, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Brukner Nature Center

Agenda

Club Updates
Membership Renewals
Swarm List Sign-up
Bee Bucks
Etc

Getting Started in Beekeeping
Robert Dorsten

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

Renew your membership

Can't attend
February's meeting?

Use the renewal form
on page 7.

Planning For A Great 2018 Beekeeping Year:

Packages

Steve Johnson will be heading down to Georgia 4 times this year to pick up packages. #3 Italian packages are \$110.00 Visit www.olddrone.net for complete details.



President's Letter

With all the snow, ice, and near-zero temperatures in January, it's hard to believe that spring is only about 40 days away. I don't know about you, but this time of year is when I really start to get cabin-fever. It's a perfect time to start planning out your garden plantings for the spring and take inventory of your beekeeping equipment. Do you have enough supers for next year? Do you need to replace old frames? Are your bottom boards in good shape or have they started to show rot? This is the perfect time to make an order and start building your replacement equipment next to a roaring fire to keep those winter blues at bay.

On to club updates, this year we have some exciting changes to make the most of the time we have during our monthly meetings:

- * You've probably already received your 2018 Membership Renewal via PayPal. This is a perfect example of how we are working to streamline our membership efforts. Rather than having to wait in long lines to pay your dues at our February meeting, you can jump ahead, check off your name on our membership roster and find your seat.
- * Secretary's and Treasurer's report will only be provided in the monthly newsletter rather than giving a verbal report during the meeting. This isn't to say that these topics are any less important than before, but we realize that you're here to talk about the BEES!
- * Instead of having a break to socialize, we will have a "Special Topic" or a Q&A session where members can ask questions of the group and get answers to your problems.

We have some other exciting changes in the works to be unveiled at our February meeting, among those is a potential mead tasting for the club...more details to come on that.

I'm looking forward to an eventful and exciting year!

Robert Dorsten
MVBA President

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

It pays to be an MVBA member! Sign-up at the February or 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
TREASURER REPORT
Francisco Martinez, Treasurer
January 2018

MVBA Treasurer's report to begin 2018

Beginning Of Reporting Period (Jan 2018) Total Holdings: \$1,179.24

This is a little shy of where we started last year (\$1,452.83), however we had a few donations very early last year that can account for that difference, This figure includes monies paid out for our renewal reminder mail-outs and registration fees paid out to the State of Ohio, so there will be very few expenses between now and our first meeting. Much like last year we can expect this figure to grow rapidly as we collect annual membership dues the first few weeks of the New Year.

MVBA Apiary Report:

Apiary Managers: Katie Stafiniak and Jeff Maher

As for the club, we have unfortunately lost one hive so far. The second one in from the "entrance".



MVBA Supports Graham Local Schools

Dear Miami Valley Beekeepers Association,

Two months ago, the Graham Falcon Farms Junior Beekeepers project was a dream without funding. Thanks to the generosity of the Miami Valley Beekeepers Association, we have made progress beyond what we had dreamed. Six Junior Beekeepers have been identified and are scheduled to attend Vickie's training workshop next week. These six special children are enthusiastic about working with bees and learning how to care for them. The supplies to build and tend our hives have been requisitioned and, once approved by the powers that be, will be ordered from Mann Lake. Once these supplies arrive, the Junior Beekeepers and I will build the frames and boxes and decide on the very best location for the bees that Vickie will gift us.

Thank you once again for your generosity. It has given our children an opportunity that they would not otherwise have had to learn a field of agriculture that could one day become a career. I look forward to meeting you on February 5th and, if their schedules will allow, hope that my Junior Beekeepers will be able to attend as well.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bowman

Win-Win Situation:

Spring Food for Your Bees - Fall Forage for Local Wildlife

NAME _____ TOWNSHIP _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ZIP _____

DAY PHONE(REQ) _____ EMAIL _____

Send me The Cooperator via E-Mail YES NO **Ordering DEADLINE:**
Friday 3/16/18 (postmarked)

# of PACKS	SPECIES: New species in CAPS, Deciduous(D), Conifers(C), Wildlife(W) Perennials(P), Ground Cover(GC)	TREES PER Pack	COST PER PACK	TOTAL
	Bittersweet (D)	2	\$5	
	BLACK ELDERBERRY (D)	2	\$5	
	New Jersey Tea (D)	2	\$5	
	Red Osier Dogwood (D)	2	\$5	
	Catalpa (D)	2	\$5	
	BLUEBERRY- HIGHBUSH (D)	2	\$6	
	Eastern Redbud (D)	3	\$6	
	Hazelnut (D)(W)	3	\$6	
	HOPHORNBEAM (D)	3	\$6	
	Paw Paw (D) (W)	3	\$6	
	BLACK GUM (D)	5	\$8	
	Black Walnut (D) (W)	5	\$8	
	Common Lilac (D)	5	\$8	
	Ohio Buckeye (D) (W)	5	\$8	
	PERSIMMON (D)	5	\$8	
	Red Maple (D)	5	\$8	
	Red Oak (D)	5	\$8	
	Serviceberry (D) (W)	5	\$8	
	Scarlet Oak (D) (W)	5	\$8	
	Shagbark Hickory (D) (W)	5	\$8	
	Tulip Poplar (D)	5	\$8	
	Arborvitae (D)	10	\$10	
	Bald Cypress (D)(C)	10	\$10	
	Colorado Blue Spruce (C)	10	\$10	
	Douglas Fir (C)	10	\$10	
	Norway Spruce (C)	25	\$25	
	White Pine (C)	25	\$25	
	Coneflower (P) MID-SUMMER MIXED COLORS	1	\$10	
	Bee Balm (P) MID-SUMMER	1	\$10	
	Butterfly Weed (P) SUMMER	1	\$10	
	New England Aster (P) FALL	1	\$10	
	Prairie Dropseed (P) GRASS	1	\$10	
	Sedum Autumn Joy (P)	1	\$10	
	Periwinkle 4" pots (GC)	9	\$15	



SEND ORDER FORM.
KEEP THIS PORTION AS A REMINDER
SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
Miami SWCD
1330 N. CR 25A, Ste C Troy OH 45373

GUIDELINES:

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

PICK-UP YOUR TREES @
Duke Lundgard Bldg
Miami Co Fairgrounds, Troy
MON. 4/9: 2P-6P
TUE. 4/10: 8A-6P
EXTRA TREES SOLD
ALL DAY TUE. 4/10!

FIND ADDITIONAL ORDER FORMS
@ SWCD & ONLINE
937/335-7645
info@miamiswcd.org
www.miamiswcd.org



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 5 of this newsletter for more info.

www.miamiswcd.org/2018%20Tree%20Seedling%20order%20form.pdf

Your bees will thank you.

Educational Opportunities

Indiana Bee School XVI, Indianapolis, IN - February 24

http://www.indianabeekeeper.com/contact_us/indiana_bee_school_xvi

\$40

Painting for Honey Bees Plus
Apitherapy
Building Honey House
Selling Hive Products at the State Fair
Purdue Research on Pesticides and Bees
Spring Management
Swarms/Cutouts
Flow Hives, Fact or Fiction
Honey in the Kitchen
Biology of Varroa Destructor
Secrets of Comb Honey
Making Nucs/Management
Hive Inspections
Rendering Wax
Top Bar Hives
Miticide: Information on Using and Choosing

Tri-County Annual Spring Beekeeping Workshop, Wooster, OH- March 3, 2018

<http://www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register>
\$40.00

Varroa Destructor Control
Colony Nutrition
The Art of Soap Making
Small Scale Queen Rearing
"Small Hive Beetle Detection and Control"
Mead Making
Birds and the Bees
Adapting To Varroa & Oxalic Acid

Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

<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/>



The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

February

- Check colonies for honey stores.
- Continue emergency feeding with frames of honey, fondant, or dry sugar, if needed.
- Continue to prepare equipment for coming season.
- Clean up dead colonies.

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

From Catch the Buzz- Urban Agriculture Worth \$33B World-wide, and Could Bee more....

The services provided by urban farmers worldwide is estimated to be worth as much as \$33 billion a year and have the potential to reach \$160 billion.

The urban agriculture phenomenon has grown over the years for many reasons, each specific to the plot of land or rooftop it covers. While most of the benefits appear limited and local, when taken collectively there is a significant environmental impact that results.

Researchers led by Arizona State University (ASU) and Google assessed the value of urban agriculture and project an annual food production of 100 million to 180 million tons.

ASU graduate student Michelle Stuhlmacher says the most obvious benefit of urban agriculture is that it improves access to healthy foods.

There's also energy savings of 14 billion to 15 billion kilowatt hours through insulation provided by soil on roofs, nitrogen sequestration of between 100,000 and 170,000 tons and avoided storm runoff of 45 million to 57 billion cubic meters annually.

With intense urban agriculture implementation, the researchers estimate the overall annual worth of urban agriculture could be \$80 million to \$160 billion.

"For the first time, we have a data-driven approach that quantifies the ecosystem benefits from urban agriculture," says Matei Georgescu, an ASU associate professor of geographical sciences and urban planning.

Google researcher Nicholas Clinton says urban agriculture could help feed a world that faces challenges in industrial agriculture because of climate change.

"We've known there are benefits to having these small plots of land in our cities, but we found that the benefits extend well beyond having fresh food in the hands of those who will consume it," Clinton says,

He says countries that have the most incentives to encourage urban agriculture share two primary characteristics – sufficient urban area, and a national-scale mixture of crops that lends itself to urban cultivation.

"Relatively temperate, developed or developing countries with the right mix of crops are expected to have the greatest incentives for urban agriculture," he says. "These would include China, Japan, Germany and the U.S."

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

Sign up at the Welcome Table during MVBA Meeting in February.

We are looking for someone to help manage this great program please contact: miami-valleybeekeepers@gmail.com

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

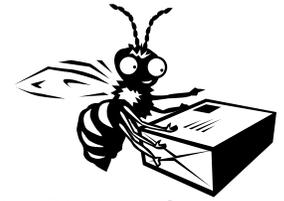
Make checks out to: Miami Valley Beekeepers Association and Remit Payment to:

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

900 Antioch School Rd

Vandalia OH 45377

Bee-ing a Step Ahead



Remember to register your hives:

http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public_docs/forms/plant/Plnt_4201-002.pdf

Our Official Facebook Page:

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

MVBA 2018 Speaker Schedule

- February 5 – Getting Started in Beekeeping – Robert Dorsten
- March 5 – Autopsy of a Hive & Cleaning up for New Bees – Tony Rimkus
- April 2 – To Be Determined
- May 7 – To Be Determined
- 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

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