

**Buzzin' About**

**February 2019**

# The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

## Newsletter

**Monday, February 4, 2019**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Brokner Nature Center**

### **MVBA CONTACTS**

**President**

Dan Richardson

**Vice President**

Chrystal Reese

**Secretary**

Katie Stefaniak

**Treasurer**

Francisco "John" Martinez

**Executive Board**

Jeff Gehret

Michelle Zindorf

**Newsletter**

Terry Lieberman-Smith

**Apiary Managers**

Patrick Reese

Mike Smoot.

### **Agenda**

Welcome

Updates on club matters

Swarm List Sign-up

Membership Renewals

Bee Bucks

etc

February Presentation:

Spring Out of Winter

Terry Lieberman-Smith

**Renew your  
MVBA membership**

Can't attend this month's meeting?

Use the renewal form  
on page 8.

### **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.



## MVBA President's Letter

Dan Richardson

Welcome to the 2019 season of Miami Valley Beekeeping Association. Have you renewed your membership for this year? We're working an exciting array of talks this year, starting with our very own Terry Lieberman-Smith speaking on seasonal beekeeping with an emphasis on coming out of winter.

Vickie Bowman will be holding a beginning beekeeping class on February 9 and 10, so if you know someone who wants to take the class, have them visit the Miami Valley Parks web site to sign up.

We met with our 4-H student for this year, Joshua Adler when OSBA turned over his equipment to him in January. He's a pleasant young man whose interest in beekeeping stems from relatives who keep bees in New England. Be sure to welcome him as you meet him.

With all the snow out there as I write this, it is hard to think "spring," but there you have it. The Silver Maples should be blooming soon. How are the girl's food stores doing? Do they need a little help to get along till they can start foraging again? It's not too early to order any replacement bees for this season. How does your equipment look? Is it ready for the flow?

The next meeting of the MVBA board will be on Monday February 11 at 6:30 PM at the Tipp City Library. All members are invited to attend and let your voice be heard.



Front row: Erica Adler, Joshua Adler (OSBA 4-H Partnership Winner), Lydia Pleiman (MVBA Past President), Terry Lieberman-Smith (OSBA President),  
Back Row: Jeffrey Adler, Michael Smoot (Mentor), Dan Richardson (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 2019**

We start out 2019 with a total of \$2,268.42

In comparison, that puts us in a much better position this year than we were in at the end of 2017/early 2018 at which time we started with \$1,179.74.

This past year we focused more on community and club members as guest speakers to help new members gain insight on what can be seen with regard to local conditions and trends in our apiaries. While we do appreciate and will continue to invite guests from out of the area to share their invaluable experience, we were able to mitigate some of the associated costs related to having non-local speakers. Not only did we take advantage of our OSBA affiliate membership to provide outstanding guest speakers, they were able to provide lower cost insurance for the

club than we've had to pay in previous years. Finally, late in the year we received several donated items, most from club members, for our end of year Bee-Bucks raffle.

While we remain a non-profit, the funds we gather through membership dues and fundraising enable us to continue to honor our commitment to support outreach and education of new beekeepers. We are one of the few local programs that does have its own apiary to help educate members, and we were also able to eagerly support the \$500.00 grant awarded to Falcon Farms of Grant Middle School for their young Beekeepers program,

*(Continued on page 6)*

**MVBA General Meeting Minutes**

November 5, 2018

Chrystal Reese, Secretary

Lydia Pleiman call the meeting to order at 7 PM. There were 32 members in attendance for the end of year carry-in dinner/meeting/auction.

MVBA Apiary Report: Katie Stafiniak reported the apiary is going to feed winter patties. The apiary is being handed over to the new Apiary Managers for the 2019 season. The new Apiary Managers will be Patrick Reese and Mike Smoot.

The following candidates were elected for 2019 MVBA board by unanimous votes:

Dan Richardson – President  
Chrystal Reese – Vice-President  
Katie Stafiniak – Secretary  
John Martinez – Treasurer  
Jeff Gehret – Member-at-large  
Michelle Zindorf – Member-at-large

Certificates of Appreciation and handmade beeswax candles were given to outgoing officers and volunteers who have contributed to the club's success in 2018: Lydia Pleiman, President; Katie Stafiniak, Apiary Manager; Vickie Bowman, Apiary Manager, Advisor; Tony Rimkus, Advisor. Thank you for your service to the MVBA!

The next MVBA meeting will be in February 2019. Have a great winter!

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_



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

# 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	
	<b>SUGAR MAPLE</b>	5	\$8	
	bald cypress (Deciduous Conifer)	10	\$10	
	<b>RED CEDAR</b>	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	

**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

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

TOTAL \$ ENCLOSED  
 (All prices include sales tax)

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 6 of this newsletter for more info.

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

## Educational Opportunities

### Indiana Bee School , Indianapolis, IN - February 23

[http://www.indianabeekeeper.com/contact\\_us/indiana\\_bee\\_school\\_xvi](http://www.indianabeekeeper.com/contact_us/indiana_bee_school_xvi)

\$45

How a Swarm Chooses and Moves to Its New Home  
 Queen Rearing  
 Spring Management  
 Selling Honey in Indiana  
 Basics of Making Creamed Honey  
 Biology of the Honeybee  
 Why Queens are Failing  
 Hive Inspection  
 Varroa Mites: What are They and How to Treat  
 Making Mead  
 Planting for Honeybees Plus  
 The Bee Hive as an Information Center  
 Before and After the Sting  
 AFB and EFB, Re-emerging in Our Bees  
 Making Nucs  
 Protein in the Bee Diet

### Tri-County Annual Spring Beekeeping Workshop, Wooster, OH- March 1-2, 2019

<http://www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register>

\$45.00

Honeybee Nutrition  
 Nucs For Beginners and Intermediate Beekeepers  
 USDA Sampling & Results  
 Tropilaelaps  
 Cooking With Honey  
 Common Sense Natural Beekeeping  
 Planting Pollinator Habitat  
 Varroa Destructor  
 Ohio Native Bees  
 Using Technology In Bee Research  
 Managing Bees In A Top Bar Hive  
 Ohio Apiary Inspection Process  
 Mead Making

### Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper School, Loveland, OH - March 23, 2019

[warren.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/southwestern-ohio-beekeeper-school](http://warren.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/southwestern-ohio-beekeeper-school)

\$35.00

Starting Your Second Season: What to Do & When  
 Bees & Crop Pollination: The Basics  
 Swarm Traps, Trap outs & Cut Outs: Learn Ways to Obtain Feral Bees  
 Timing Is Everything: Learn What Buttons to Push and When to Push Them to Improve Hive Health  
 Combs & Beeswax: No Honey Bees Without It  
 Beekeeping on a Budget  
 Hot Colonies or Killer Bees?  
 Season Long Forage for Bees  
 Bee Hive Selection  
 Using Advanced Monitoring to Increase Production and Reduce Hive Mortality  
 All About Drones  
 Making Mead at Home

**Sold Out**



## Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

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

<http://montgomeryswcd.org/2019TreeSaleForm.html>

<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

### 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

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

In the first Quarter we'll see some of our greatest expenses as we re-establish the apiary after the winter and pay all of our initial annual operating costs; However, we'll likely also see our greatest period of income as we collect membership dues from new and returning members.

## 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 counter-top 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)

## Brukner Nature Center Wish List

Express your thanks to Brukner Nature Center by helping to fill some of the needs on their wish list:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Cheerios (plain)                                 | Black oil sunflower seed  |
| Special Kitty moist Cat food (turkey or chicken) | Gift cards to Meijer, Lowes, Petco, Tractor supply, Kroger, Amazon and Jay & Mary's Book Center |
| Timothy hay                                      | Jumbo clear hand soap refill  |
| Fresh fruit & vegetables                         | Caution tape  |
| Toilet paper                                     | Duct tape   |
| Cotton balls                                     | Jumbo hand sanitizer refill   |
| Tide laundry detergent pods                      | Fabric paint  |
| Bleach   | Google eyes   |
| Dishwasher detergent pods                        | Pipe cleaners   |
| 30 gallon force flex trash bags                  | Construction paper (yellow, blue, black, brown)   |
| Live meal worms                                  | Tissues   |
| Live wax worms                                   | Brown paper lunch bags  |
| Hard shelled nuts (acorns, walnuts, etc.)        |   |
| Mixed seed                                       |   |

*BNC is always in need of volunteers to help with visiting school groups, maintenance and special events. Please contact them at 937-698-6493 or [info@bruknernaturecenter.com](mailto:info@bruknernaturecenter.com) for more information and to get involved.*

### 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