

**Buzzin' About**

**July 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 Stafiniak

**Newsletter**

Terry Lieberman-Smith

**Apiary Managers**

Katie Stafiniak

Vickie Bowman

**Monday, July 2, 2018**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Brukner Nature Center**

## **Agenda**

Club Updates

Sign up for MVBA Honey Harvest

Bee Bucks

Etc

## **Panel Discussion**

**Topic:**

**Pest Management- Tips for Healthy Hives**

**Bring your questions!**

**Renew your membership**

Can't attend this month's meeting?

Use the renewal form  
on page 5.

## Editor's Note

We are more than half-way through the beekeeping season, and with all the heat, thoughts of getting the girls ready for the winter ahead may seem a bit off track. However, healthy bees going in to winter is essential for winter survival. Varroa is not the only critter that can take down a hive - Small Hive Beetle and the Wax Moth can devastate a less than healthy colony.

At this month's MVBA meeting, our panel will cover Pest Management Tips for Healthy Hives. Bring your questions! MVBA is here to help you become a more confident, and competent, beekeeper so that you can enjoy the adventure.

The MVBA Honey Harvest is just around the corner - consider signing up to volunteer for this educational event on Sunday, August 5th. This event is in place of our regular August meeting.

Elections for MVBA officers is also coming up in just a few months. Love your club? Volunteer to help out. Want to make it even better and stronger? Volunteer to help out.

See you in the beeyard

*Terry Lieberman-Smith*

*P.S.* Club members, stop by the MVBA Apiary before the meeting. Weather permitting, our Apiary Managers Katie Stafiniak and Vickie Bowman, will provide everyone pointers and this month's apiary activities. Bring, and wear, your protective gear. Our training apiary is only one of the many benefits of joining MVBA. Not a member yet? Join at the July club meeting, or fill out MVBA Membership form on page 5 and mail it to our Treasurer, John Martinez.

## MVBA Apiary Report

We have been extremely busy in the hives lately.

Our split NUC is working on creating a queen. The hive that we made that out of hasn't been laying properly and we are unsure of how long this has been happening. All signs point to a laying worker(s). We are currently developing a plan to remedy this, possibly by ordering a new queen.



With the help of Tony Rimkus, we made it through all the hives at the beginning of this month to check each out from top to bottom for inspections. There have been honey supers added to our overwintered hive and a new box on top of our newest hive. Hive beetle continues to be a problem and new beetle traps have been added to each hive.

We currently have 3 full hives and one NUC.



**MVBA Meeting Minutes**  
**Chrystal Reese, Secretary**  
**June 4, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7 PM. There were 53 guests and members in attendance. Robert Dorsten opened the floor for Q&A.

**Announcements for June:**

Deb from Brukner Nature Center gave us a Brukner announcements. The Native Plant Sale is June 16, 2018 from 10-3. The Summer Solstice Speaker series is Dave Nolan.

MVBA Apiary Report: Katie Stafiniak announced they made a successful split to one of the hives. Jeff Mahar had to step down, however Katie, Jeff Gehret and Vickie Bowman will continue to manage the apiary.

Terry Lieberman-Smith gave an OSBA update. House Bill 392 is still in committee. The OSBA Fall Conference is November 3, 2018. One of the new classes being offered is building a better bee club.

Robert introduced a new local bee supply retailer, Ken Vallee from Honey Makers Bee Supply.

Dean Pond, the new Miami County Bee Inspector introduced himself to the club.

Q: Can we begin taking honey off now?

A: Yes, as long as the honey is capped, it can be removed any time.

Q: Are the bees acting strangely this year?

A: Yes, it seems as though they are not working the plants they typically would.

Q: When do you feed pollen?

A: Typically a beekeeper will feed pollen during a dearth, typically in the late summer.

Q: Is the swarm season late this year?

A: There have been very few swarms so far this year. Last year the swarm season began in mid-April.

Guest speaker Tanya Brown from Living Simply Soaps in Tipp City, OH provided the club with a soap making demonstration. She noted the benefits of adding honey to soap are that it is a humectant, antimicrobial and antibacterial. She demonstrated how to make Honey Almond Soap.

Next meeting is July 2, 2018.

**CATCH THE BUZZ – FUNGICIDES SEEM TO BE MUCH MORE OF A PROBLEM THAN WE THOUGHT WHEN IT COMES TO HONEY BEES.**

Highly variable winter weather and mites have hammered Ian Merwin's honey bee hives for losses in recent years. And this Trumansburg, N.Y., grower counts on them to pollinate 150 apple varieties in three orchards at his Black Diamond Farm.

But something more was happening. Working with Cornell Entomologist Christopher McArt, additional bee health challenges were discovered on this 64-acre farm in New York's Southern Tier region.

"Beekeepers have been losing honey bees at an alarming rate," McArt says. "Our research indicates fungicides pose a much higher risk to bee health than previously realized, potentially making the bees more susceptible to disease. Using fungicides in tandem with insecticide sprays can make the insecticides even more toxic to the bees."

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 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/>



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## The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

### July

- Remove comb honey supers when properly sealed.
- Check for queen cells, especially in colonies used for queen rearing.
- Add sufficient super space (undersuper).
- Remove and extract early season honey crop.
- Freeze comb honey to prevent wax moth damage
- Prepare for the Fair!

### 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.

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## 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/>

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- 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 3 OSBA Fall Conference, Tolles Career and Technical Center, Plain City, OH
- November 5 – Member Carry-In, Officer Elections, Bee Buck Raffle.

*(Continued from page 3)*

Read more at:

[https://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-fungicides-seem-to-be-much-more-of-a-problem-than-we-thought-when-it-comes-to-honey-bees/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=78eed7c189-Catch\\_The\\_Buzz\\_4\\_29\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-78eed7c189-256238833](https://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-fungicides-seem-to-be-much-more-of-a-problem-than-we-thought-when-it-comes-to-honey-bees/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=78eed7c189-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-78eed7c189-256238833)

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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