

Buzzin' About

May 2018

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

**Monday, May 7, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Brukner Nature Center**

Agenda

Club Updates
Membership Renewals
Bee Bucks
Etc

Guest Speaker:

OSBA Traveling Speaker Tim Arbeit

Topic:

Sustainable Beekeeping: Nucs

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

County inspectors

Preble:

Don Popp 513-523-0789

Shelby

Shawn Henry 937-658-3262

Darke

Steve Brumbaugh 937-423-5554

Clark

Jim Lyons 614-806-9234

Miami

Open

Montgomery

Stephen Hollen937-371-4071

Renew your membership

Can't attend this month's meeting?

Use the renewal form
on page 8.

President's Letter

Hopefully by the time you're reading this our temperatures have warmed up and our girls are regularly out foraging.

This is the time of year when things get exciting! If you're a new beekeeper, you've likely received your package or will be soon. I've said it before, but don't forget to feed, it takes a lot of resources to get those girls started out right. You'll also be tempted to get into the hives every day or two to see what's going on; try to refrain. At best you'll set the girls back, and at worst you could force them to abscond. Once every one to two weeks should be plenty as they get established.

For everyone else, good quality forage has started to be available, mostly in the form of trees and some early flowers. Queens should have increased their laying significantly, and if you've successfully brought hives through the winter, you'll want to plan to start planning to add honey supers.

Speaking of swarms, this month is when you'll want to employ your favorite swarm prevention technique. If you're like me, no matter how much I try to get the girls not to swarm, I always have a few hives that decide they're going to do it anyway. An excellent way to prevent them from leaving is to take the existing queen out of the hive along with a few frames (without queen cells) and put them in a nuc box. You've essentially created an artificial swarm out of your hive and got a split too!

This is also a really good time to put together your "swarm kit" and have it ready in your car. Mine consists of a folding ladder, brush, spray bottle, 5 frame nuc box, bucket, and veil. I keep it in the car between mid-April to mid-July.

The cut-sheet for the inexpensive nuc boxes that I use is at the link in the bottom of this article. You can make 4 of them out of a single 4'x8' sheet of 1/2" plywood. These nuc boxes also make fantastic swarm traps. Put an old brood comb and a couple drops of Lemongrass essential oil in them, stick them in a tree, and wait. I typically have a 90% success rate if I put them in an area that I know there are bees.

If you have unique swarm catching equipment that you use, feel free to bring them to our next meeting for a quick show and tell.

I look forward to seeing everyone on May 7!

Robert Dorsten
MVBA President

Plywood nuc link: <http://beesource.com/build-it-yourself/5-frame-nuc-d-coates-version/>

BIP Colony Loss Survey Closes April 30th

<https://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=LMS2018#>

MVBA Meeting Minutes Chrystal Reese, Secretary April 2, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7 PM by President, Robert Dorsten. There were 72 guests and members in attendance.

Announcements for April:

Deb from Brukner Nature Center gave us a barn update and parking information. If we need overflow parking, please park on one side of the road on the way out to allow two-way traffic.

The MVBA Apiary was moved back and package install is projected to take place April 11, weather dependent.

Lisa Bowman and student Jacob Kaster gave a Falcon Farms Update. They have hives and frames built and are anxiously awaiting bees April 11. District students held queen naming contest and the new queens will be officially dubbed Rose Isabella and Lady Falcon Mercury. Don't forget to register your hives with the state.

Watch for an upcoming social event with Hairless Hare Brewery in Vandalia. This brewery has purchased MVBA club honey for use in their beer and mead.

MVBA is still seeking a July speaker. If you have a speaker or topic suggestion, please contact Robert Dorsten or Lydia Pleiman.

SAVE THE DATE: The honey harvest will be Sunday, August 5.

Terry Lieberman-Smith updated the club on the status of HBP92. The bill is in the OH Senate. It has to go through committee and then to the floor before it can come for a vote. Keep watch for updates on Facebook if you'd like to follow the progress of this bill.

Robert opened the floor for question and answer time.

Q: What happens if there's snow when packages arrive?

A: Bees will crawl around at 35F but will stay in cluster. Install quickly or wait a day or two until the weather improves to install.

Q: If I give a package frames of honey, do I still need to feed them sugar syrup?

A: Yes. Bees will still need the thinner syrup for other tasks in the hive, so having both available this weird spring is a good option.

Q: With the current weather, should I still be giving them solid sugar bricks or is it warm enough to give sugar syrup?

A: Give sugar syrup at a 1:1 ratio now, as long as the weather breaks enough that they can leave cluster to relieve themselves.

Q: I want to use jar feeders above the frames, do I have to put a screen under the jar?

A: Screening is not necessary. Remember to punch the smallest holes possible in the jar lids.

The speaker for March was Terry Lieberman-Smith. She has been beekeeping for 13 years and is the current OSBA President. Her presentation was: The Lies We Tell Ourselves, or How Not to Be a Successful Beekeeper

Some of the lies we tell ourselves:

I have enough equipment. – You never can have enough equipment. Be prepared for splits and swarms and an awesome honey flow with enough reserve equipment.

My 10-year-old brood comb is still good. – healthy bees need a healthy environment. Give them fresh comb, stretching it to perhaps 5 years old. Use old but satisfactory comb for swarm traps.

(Continued on page 7)

The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

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!

June

- Continue to check for queen cells.
- Rear queens if you prefer your own stock.
- Check colonies for disease and monitor for mites.
- Remove comb honey supers when properly sealed.
- Provide plenty of super space.
- Control swarming.
- Capture swarms

From Catch the Buzz- US Honey Production Down 9 % for operations with 5 or more colonies in 2017

U.S. honey production in 2017 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 9 percent from 2016. There were 2.67 million colonies producing honey in 2017, down 4 percent from 2016. Yield per colony averaged 55.3 pounds, down 5 percent from the 58.3 pounds in 2016. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 30.6 million pounds on December 15, 2017, down 26 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Operations with Less than Five Colonies Produced 599 Thousand Pounds of Honey in 2017

U.S. honey production in 2017 from producers with less than five colonies totaled 599 thousand pounds, down 22 percent from 2016. There were 20 thousand colonies from which honey was har-

vested in 2017, down 17 percent from 2016. The average yield was 30.0 pounds per colony in 2017, down 6 percent from the previous year.

Honey Prices Up 2 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies in 2017.

United States honey prices increased 2 percent during 2017 to 215.6 cents per pound, compared to 211.9 cents per pound in 2016. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2016 crop reflect honey sold in 2016 and 2017. Some 2016 crop honey was sold in 2017, which caused some revisions to the 2016 crop prices.

Price Paid per Queen was 14 Dollars for Operations with Five or More Colonies in 2017. For oper-

(Continued on page 7)

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

Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

Pollen Sources Walnut

Nectar: Ground-ivy, Sour Gum Tree, Buckthorns, Viburnums, Locust Trees, Tulip Poplar, Common Privet, Basswood, Linden, Candytuft, Lambs Ear, Vetch

Nectar and Pollen: Crabapple, Apple, Serviceberry, Shadbush, Hawthorns, Blackberries, Chives, Cotoneaster, Leopard's Bane, Redbud, Strawberry, White Sweet Clover,

<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>



Proceedings of the 2018 American Bee Research Conference

The 2018 American Bee Research Conference (ABRC) was held January 11–12, 2018 at the Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV. Over the two-day conference, a total of 55 oral presentations and 12 poster presentations were given, representing work done from over 30 different research groups from throughout the U.S.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0005772X.2018.1450208>

MVBA Apiary Report

We successfully installed our new package Wednesday April 11th, thank you to everyone who came to watch. Big huge thank you to Vickie Bowman for moving the clubs original hives from Wanamacher Park, back to Bruckner. The girls seem happy to be back.

On Saturday the 14th we went to check and make sure the queen came out of her cage and we also switched all the hives from patties to 1:1 sugar water syrup. Depending on weather we hope to demonstrate a sugar shake and drone pick before the May meeting. After that we will discuss a spring treatment plan (we've already noticed hive beetles hiding in the patties recently). Once it warms up we will go through the entire hives and assess them. We will also be doing splits on our 2 current hives, date TBD.



Meeting Minutes *(Continued from page 3)*

The bees made it through winter, they'll be fine!
– Late winter and spring before the nectar flow are when most bees starve. Feed until the hummingbirds come at least.

There's always food around for the bees. – Know if there is adequate forage for the bees by utilizing the Ohio State Growing Degree Days Calculator.

<https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>

I don't need to know bee biology, that's for the lab guys to know. – Understanding bee biology allows you to understand swarm behavior, what the bees need at particular stages of life cycles, and bee math. For example: If the honey flow begins May 1, the bees need to have lots of forager-aged bees.

Forager-aged bees are 18 days old, which would mean they emerged from the cell April 13. To have an egg emerge by April 13, the egg was laid March 23.

Knowing bee biology allows you to understand bee math so you know what to look for when you're in the hive.

I'll remember what I did in the hive inspection. – No, you won't. Track your hive observations on each visit. Use whatever method you know you will be consistent and keep up with. Some ways are a journal or notebook, writing on inner cover, writing on hive body, using an app on your phone (put in plastic bag if you don't want it to be sticky!)

If it works for that beekeeper, it'll work for me. – Every keeper has different goals and locations. Techniques may be shared but not every keeper will be doing the same things for their hives.

Cutting out queen cells will prevent swarming. – Once the bees have the urge to swarm, they will be very hard to stop. Try to manage it with various splitting techniques.

I don't need to know bee nutrition. – Sugar water is not complete nutrition. Bees need protein at various stages of life cycle. They need diversity. Spring feeding of 1:1 sugar syrup is appropriate but also add pollen.

It's ok if I don't visit the bees, I'll go tomorrow. – you need to monitor your hives regularly. Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

Who needs a club or class? I can find everything on the internet. – Our favorite insects are hive-minded. We should be too. Build a local network and mentor to learn zone appropriate keeping techniques and expectation.

She held a brief Q&A where she informed us she uses carpet tacks with the tacks facing the hive. The skunks will hurt their feet when attempting to rob the hive. She also recommended using a hive top feeder system rather than a front feeder or open feeder to discourage robbing.

Next meeting is May 7, 2018. Bring any unique swarm equipment or tool for show and tell.

(Continued from page 4)

ations with five or more colonies, the average prices paid in 2017 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$14, \$76, and \$107 respectively. The average prices paid in 2017 for operations with less than five colonies were \$34 per queen, \$117 per package, and \$138 per nuc. For operations with five or more colonies, pollination income for 2017 was \$435 million, up 29 percent from 2016. Other income from honey bees for operations with five or more colonies in 2017 was \$163 million, up 10 percent from 2016. Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 201.6[Operations with 5 or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State]

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/>

-
- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| May 7 – | OSBA Sustainable Beekeeping: Nucs - Tim Arheit |
| 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. |

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