

Buzzin' About

May 2019

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

Monday, May 6, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Brukner Nature Center

Agenda

Club Updates

Membership Renewals

Bee Bucks

Etc

Guest Speaker:

Mark Beougher

Topic:

Swarm Trapping

MVBA CONTACTS

President

Dan Richardson

Vice President

Chrystal Reese

Secretary

Katie Stefaniak

Treasurer

Bruce Willis

At Large

Jeff Gehret

Michelle Zindorf

Newsletter

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Apiary Managers

Patrick Reese

Mike Smoot

County Apiary Inspector Contact List

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Champaign	Brad McClincy	614.668.5911
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Montgomery	Steve Hollen	937.371.4071
Preble	Don Popp	513.523.0789



President's Letter

Welcome to May!

After a slow start to the spring, I think we've finally made it past the final freeze, and the girls are hard at work. How are you all set for swarms? If you're on the list, you probably want your swarm kit in the car. Even if not, is it time for a manual swarm?

You can build your nucs from half inch plywood, there's a plan at <https://beesource.com/build-it-yourself/5-frame-nucleus-beehives/> for deeps. Or, if you go with medium, you might prefer to make them from a 1x10. There's a plan for that at <https://cookevillebeekeepers.com/easy-to-build-honey-bee-nucleus-hive/>.

Did you get all the plants you needed for spring planting? I know last year I put in some spice bush which the grandson promptly mowed down. This year, I'm trying again. We'll be visiting the Mayfair Plant Sale at Wegerzyn Gardens Metropark (1301 E Siebenthaler Ave.,

Dayton). It will run Saturday, May 4 from 9 to 3 and Sunday, May 5 from 11 to 3. It's another opportunity to get low cost plantings for your gardens.

Did you know that you can get "The ABCs and XYZs of Bee Culture" for Kindle for \$1.99? It's not the newest version, but if you don't have it, and don't want to drop \$40 for hardback, there it is.

It's a busy month, remember to take time to enjoy the girls.

Dan Richardson
MVBA President

MVBA Apiary Report

The apiary is BOOMING! We were happy to find that three hives wintered over this year. We installed two new packages, March 30 and April 9. Both queens are released and laying nicely.

Upon inspection we have discovered small hive beetles in all of the survivor hives, so April 13 we placed reusable small hive beetle traps in each box of every hive. We will likely install the Swiffer sheets as well at a future apiary visit.

The nectar flow is on. We will be adding honey supers to the overwintered hives next week.

Please keep an eye on the Miami Valley Beekeepers Facebook page for extra apiary visits and videos and pictures of visits



MVBA Meeting Minutes
Katie Stefaniak, Secretary
April 1, 2019

7:03 Dan Richardson calls meeting to begin
 Patrick Reese has installed a package in the club's apiary Saturday March 30th, footage available on YouTube

Old Drone has 2 more pick-up dates available

Treasurer's report by John Martinez

Apiary Report by manager Patrick Reese: Three of our hives overwintered, and have been fed 1:1 syrup, they will be installing a new package April 9th at 6:30pm

This Month in the Apiary Patrick Reese

- Feed 1:1 syrup, feed pollen
- Inspect the queens laying, brood pattern
- Install drone comb frames (if you use this type of mite control)
- Remove winter preparations; hive wraps, insulated covers, mouse guards
- Add supers to strong colonies
- Consider swarm control

7:12 Break

7:23 Controlling Mites Without Chemicals: A Close Look at Mighty Mite Killer, A Personal Evaluation by Dave Allen

- Breaking the queen cycle
- Find queen; remove her from hive, notch 3-day-old larvae (optional), wait 30 days, check for new eggs (new active laying queen)
- Freezing; a drone board
- Sugar dusting the hive (minimum 3 weeks)
- Heat treatment
- Mighty Mite Killer
- Mites die at 106 degrees
- Bees die at 116 degrees
- Maintain heat at 106 degrees for 2.5 hours, works for mites under cappings, minimum damage to hive beetle

8:02 Meeting adjourned

Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

Nectar: Mustards

Pollen: Poplars, Willows, Oak, Cedar, Junipers

Pollen and Nectar: Apple Trees, Chickweed, Hackberry Trees, Dandelion, Redbud Trees

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/>



From Catch the Buzz - Propolis Power-up: How Beekeepers Can Encourage Resin Deposits for Better Hive Health - Andrew Porterfield

Propolis, a mass of plant resins built by honey bees inside their hives, has drawn attention in recent years partly because of its alleged (but as yet unproven) health benefits to humans. But, perhaps more important, it also shows health benefits to bees themselves. Created from resins and other oils and fats collected from trees, propolis helps preserve the structural integrity of a bee hive and protects against wood decay, fungus, and water.

Propolis has also been connected to benefiting honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) immune systems, saving energy that would otherwise have been used to protect against nest-invading beetles like *Aethina tumida* or parasites like the *Varroa destructor* mite, *Nosema* fungus, and viruses. In the past, some beekeepers have tried to keep their hives “clean” of propolis, believing it impeded with honey-making activities. Today, though, scientists and beekeepers have begun looking at encouraging propolis production to help sustain healthy hives.

In a [new study published today in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*](#), three researchers—Cynthia Hodges, master beekeeper and co-owner of Hodges Honey Apiaries in Dunwoody, Georgia; Keith Delaplane, Ph.D., entomology professor at the University of Georgia; and Berry Brosi, Ph.D., associate professor of environmental science at Emory University in Atlanta—looked at four different ways to enhance propolis growth in bee hives. The team found that three surface modifications—plastic trap material on the hive wall interior, parallel saw cuts on hive wall interior, and brush-roughened wall interiors—were all equally capable of resulting in increased propolis production, compared to a fourth method, a control, in which the hive wall interiors were left unmodified.

The researchers divided 20 colonies into five

apiary sites and randomly applied one of the three texture treatments or control to each colony. Bees in the colonies foraged for propolis resins from plants common to the Appalachian Piedmont in the southeastern U.S., including conifers, oaks, pecan, red maple, yellow poplar, and urban ornamental plants. The researchers then measured extensiveness and depth of propolis deposits in the hives over time.



Their results showed that any hive interior treatment significantly increased propolis deposition compared to a non-treatment control. Sampling over time showed propolis hoarding and accumulation, as well. None of

the texture treatments showed significantly different results from each other.

While all treatments resulted in more propolis deposition, the researchers point to the roughened interior of the hive walls as the best method for encouraging deposition. In fact, leaving lumber naturally rough, with no planning or sanding, would provide a simple and effective surface for boosting propolis, they write.

“We come down in favor of roughened or unplaned wood,” says Delaplane, “because, unlike the plastic trap, it will not subtract from the bee space engineered around the walls and combs. What you see in our pictures is the work of a steel brush. Naturally unplaned wood would be much rougher and, I would expect, even better at stimulating propolis deposition.”

Other researchers have shown that propolis development has a strong effect on the members of the bee hive. These other investigations have shown that interior walls painted with propolis extract resulted in colonies with lower bacterial loads and with worker bees that expressed lower levels of immune gene expression. Sustained

(Continued on page 5)

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

Propolis (Continued from page 4)

activation of immune genes comes at an energy cost, which can result in a reduction in brood numbers and pose a threat to overall colony health. Further studies have shown that reduced immune activation (and therefore less energy spent on fighting infection) comes from reduced pathogen loads in high-propolis colonies and not from immune suppression by propolis.

“I don’t know of any beekeepers deliberately encouraging their bees to collect propolis,” says Delaplane, adding that many keepers in the past have tried to clear propolis from their hives. “But today we know that this bias is misdirected. I believe encouraging propolis deposition is one more thing beekeepers can do to partner with biology instead of ignore it.”