

Buzzin' About

March 2021

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

Monday March 1, 2021
7:00 p.m.
Zoom!

Agenda
Club Updates
Volunteer Sign-ups

Presentation:

The Best of the Web:
Finding New (Reliable) Voices On-Line

MVBA Contacts

President

Chrystal Reese

Vice President

Lydia Pleiman

Secretary

Donna Meade

Treasurer

Brian Willis

At Large

Dan Richardson

Tim Ray

Newsletter

Terry Lieberman-Smith

Apiary Manager

Patrick Reese

MVBA Swarm List-

An Added Benefit of Being an MVBA Member

It pays to be an MVBA member! Sign-up at the 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.



President Notes

As I write, another February snow is piling up with another in the forecast. Uncharacteristically we are at zero growing degree days with official spring only 34 days away. The average growing degrees for this date, in my zip code, for the last five years is 20GDD.

What does this mean for you and your apiary? First, with all the snow, be sure to clear the landing boards so that the bees have proper ventilation and can get out if necessary. The extreme cold weather often will cause the bees to use less sugar and honey stores, but when the weather turns, it may happen quickly.

Be diligent about checking that they have enough. It would be heartbreaking to get them through the winter just to have the girls starve in spring. The early part of the winter was warm, so they could be lower than you realize.

Have you inventoried your equipment lately? Do you need to replace some frames or other hive components? There is still plenty of time to place an order for components. Winter is the perfect time to get your hives ready. Frozen or cold propolis is a lot easier to scrape than in June when it's warm and you realize you need to clean that extra box! Think

through other supplies you need. If you're ordering equipment, do you need mite treatment? Honey bottling supplies? Do you have enough rubbing alcohol to clean equipment? As some supplies are still sometimes scarce it's even more imperative to plan ahead.

When I check the mail box, the next best thing to receiving a bee supply catalog is receiving a seed catalog! Are you planning a garden? Flower bed? Have you considered planting specifically for your bees? You can plant small nectar sources in the form of flowers, or go BIG! Maple and black locust trees are great forage to plant for your bees if you have the space.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom March 1, 2021 and hope to see you in person before too long. Have a warm and healthy winter!

Chrystal Reese
MVBA President

MVBA Treasurer Report

Brian Willis

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Accont February 2021	\$ 3,360.49	\$ 3,583.09	\$ 222.60	Beginning Balance February 2021
Income				Income during Meeting
Member Dues	\$ 20.00			Member Dues
	\$ -			
Total Income	Total for Deposit \$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Expenses				Expenses
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ -			Total Cashbox Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ -		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance February 15 2021	\$ 3,380.49		\$ 222.60	Ending Cash Balance February 15 2021
Monthly total Net change		\$ 20.00		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 3,583.09		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 3,603.09		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
total Holdings 15 February 2021 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 3,603.09		

MVBA Secretary Report November 2, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Club goals were discussed for next year. Apiary manager Patrick Reese said his goals for the club are successful overwintering of the hives, split early, and raise and sell off nucs if possible.

A poll was taken to learn how many members had their hives inspected this year. Only 2 had hives inspected, and they were in Preble and Champaign Counties.

Club Board Officer voting for 2021 needed to be held. The club constitution states that voting has to be by paper ballot. Since that isn't possible through a zoom meeting, Crystal Reese made a motion that we not use paper ballots, Donna Meade 2nd the motion. Vote 12-0 to NOT use paper ballots.

Vote was held to maintain current filled board positions. Lydia Pleiman volunteered to fill the Vice Presi-

dent position and Tim Ray volunteered to serve as At Large Member.

Approved 12 Yes - 0 No
President – Chrystal Reese,
Vice President – Lydia Pleiman
Treasurer – Brian Willis
Secretary – Donna Meade
At Large Members – Dan Richardson and Tim Ray

Seasonal Resource Page - Winter-Spring 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.

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association Membership Form 2021

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

2455 Piqua-Troy Rd

Troy, OH 45373

The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

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

April

- Monitor colony stores, esp. if weather is cold & wet.
- Inspect brood nest for laying queen, disease, etc
- Introduce package bees on drawn combs.
- Requeen colonies with failing queens.
- Reverse brood chambers when weather moderates.
- Add supers to strong colonies at maple or dandelion bloom.
- Unite weak colonies.
- Equalize strength of all colonies.

Quick Fix to Bee Space in the Wrong Place

Terry Lieberman-Smith

There is an old expression, "Ashtrays are full, time to get a new car." Humorous, if a tad extreme, and expensive. However, I have heard beekeepers say that they need a new jacket because the elastic at the cuffs or bottom edge is shot, or a new veil because the elastic at the top of the old veil has died, and bees are getting up their sleeves or in their veils and stinging them.



Replacing elastic is a simple and quick fix that does not rely on any fancy equipment. A needle, a safety pin, a seam ripper (or pointy scissors), and some elastic. Since I sew, I always have extra pieces of elastic in a drawer. The elastic, if purchased at a fabric store will cost less than \$4.00. You could always use a rubberband. Cut it, and then once installed, tie it.

First step is to remove the old elastic. Open up the cuff casing by snipping a few of the stitches. Your opening only needs to be about 1 inch. Pull about two inches of the elastic into a loop, and then cut the loop and pull out the elastic from the casing.



Now is the time to measure and cut the new elastic for your custom fit. It should wrap around your wrist. You don't want a tight fit, because the fabric will take up quite a bit of room, and you don't want to cut off your circulation when you are out in the backyard.



Once you have the length you want, place the safety pin at one end of the piece. Insert the safety pin end into the casing, and snake it through the casing. You may need to pin or tape the safety pin end to the fabric so that you don't pull it through the casing.

Using the needle and thread, slightly overlap the two ends of elastic and stitch together. Check the fit, if too loose, unstitch and overlap the ends a bit more. Once you are satisfied with the fit, secure the casing with a few stitches.

Good as new, and ready for a few more years of hard work.



Old vs. New. The elastic truly died. →



Win-Win Situation:

Spring Food for Your Bees - Fall Forage for Local Wildlife

NAME _____ TOWNSHIP _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ZIP _____

**** PLEASE ** WE NEED YOUR DAY TIME PHONE NUMBER** _____

Send me THE COOPERATOR via E-Mail _____

How MANY PACKS?	ITEMS PER PACK	~ SPECIES ~ DECIDUOUS-D, CONIFER-C PERENNIAL-P, SHRUB/THICKET-ST (NEW SPECIES IN CAPS)	COST PER PACK	TOTAL MONEY OWED
	2	SPECKLED ALDER ~D	\$5	
	2	Black Elderberry ~ST	\$5	
	2	DOMESTIC APPLE ~D	\$6	
	2	NATIVE FLOWERING RASPBERRY ~ST	\$6	
	2	Northern Pecan ~D	\$6	
	3	Paw Paw ~D	\$6	
	2	Blueberry - Highbush ~D	\$7	
	5	Black Walnut ~D	\$8	
	5	Ohio Buckeye ~D	\$8	
	5	Sugar Maple ~D	\$8	
	5	Serviceberry - Downy ~D, ST	\$8	
	5	White Oak ~D	\$8	
	5	Shagbark Hickory ~D	\$8	
	5	Tulip Poplar ~D	\$8	
	5	Paper Birch ~D	\$8	
	5	Common Lilac ~D, ST	\$8	
	10	Bald Cypress ~DC	\$10	
	10	CANAAN FIR ~C	\$10	
	10	Colorado Blue Spruce ~C	\$10	
	10	White Pine ~C	\$10	
	10	Norway Spruce ~C	\$10	
	1/pot	Shenandoah Red Switch Grass ~P	\$10	
	1/pot	Beard Tongue ~P	\$10	
	1/pot	Bee Balm ~P	\$10	
	1/pot	AMSONIA BLUE STAR ~P	\$10	
	1/pot	ASTILBE False Spirea Red Raspberry ~P	\$10	
	1/pot	Coneflower Mixed Color ~P	\$10	

DEADLINE TO ORDER: FRIDAY 3/12/21 (POSTMARKED) **TOTAL \$ ENCLOSED** (PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX)



Send Order Form w/ 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 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 ORDER @
Duke Lundgard Bldg
Miami Co Fairgrounds, Troy
TUESDAY WEDNESDAY
4/6: 2P-6P 4/7: 8A-6P



EXTRA TREES SOLD THRU OUT PICK UP TIMES!

MORE ORDER FORMS @
1330 N. CR 25A, TROY & ONLINE-WWW.MIAMISWCD.ORG
FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT 937/335-7645 OR INFO@MIAMISWCD.ORG
Keep this portion as a reminder.

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.

[2021 Tree Seedling order form.pdf \(miamiswcd.org\)](https://www.miamiswcd.org/2021%20Tree%20Seedling%20order%20form.pdf)

Your bees will thank you.