

Buzzin' About

May 2021

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

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

Monday May 3, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Zoom!

Agenda

Club Updates

Volunteer Sign-ups

Guest Speaker:

Patrick Reese

Topic:

Increase– Now is the Time

Renew your membership

Can't attend this month's meeting?

Use the renewal form on page 3.

Or go online:

<http://www.paypal.com/instantcommerce/checkout/9XHL8DY4QH62Q>

President Notes

Welcome! It was great to see the good turnout at our March meeting! We have a great lineup for our May meeting. Patrick Reese will be presenting "Increase: Now is the Time".

April showers bring May flowers: the forecast looks like there will be plenty of May flowers. The nectar flow will be on and so should your honey supers be. This will also serve the dual purpose of helping discourage the urge to swarm. If you see queen cells at the bottom of a frame, they look similar to peanuts in the shell, your bees are thinking of swarming. Queen cups at the bottom of the frame are not the same as a fully formed cell. If the cup has an egg or royal jelly in it, it is the start of a queen cell that is not yet capped. Capped queen cells indicate a swarm has happened or will very shortly. Do not destroy the cell unless you have a queen to give them! Once capped you should have a mated, laying queen in about three weeks.

Mites are generally not a problem in the spring, though if you installed packages you will want to test to verify your hive is starting out on good footing.

You can use a testing method that doesn't kill the bees to at least get an idea of your starting point. It's also time to think about your attack plan for mites. Do you know how to test? Have you done it? What treatment do you plan to use? Do you know if it needs to be repeated, or is it a one-time treatment? What weather conditions need to be in place to treat? Think ahead so you have what you need. You don't want to find yourself with a mite bomb of a hive and then have to figure it out.

If anything I mentioned just begs more questions, please jot them down and ask in the meeting. We will continue to have an open Q and A time and you can always put a question in the chat. I look forward to seeing you in May!

Chrystal Reese
MVBA President

MVBA Treasurer Report

Brian Willis

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Accont April 2021	\$ 3,823.09	\$ 4,045.69	\$ 222.60	Beginning Balance April 2021
Income				Income during Meeting
Member Dues Paypal/Checks	\$ 267.88			Member Dues
	\$ -			
Total for Deposit	\$ 267.88	\$ 267.68	\$ -	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Total Income				
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 April 15 2021	\$ 4,090.77		\$ 222.60	Ending Cash Balance April 15 2021
Monthly total Net change		\$ 267.68		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 4,045.69		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 4,313.37		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
Total Holdings 15 March 2021 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 4,313.37		

MVBA Secretary Report April 5, 2021

Chrystal Reese opened the meeting with announcements.

Renew membership at www.paypal.com/instantcommerce/checkout/9XHL8DY4QH16Q
Gauge the nectar flow by watching the hummingbird migration at www.hummingbirdcentral.com
Patrick Reese presented the apiary report and the April "In the Apiary" segment

Monitor food stores

Feed 1:1 syrup if weather is warm enough (it is)

Feed pollen substitute until it is naturally coming in (it is)

Inspect brood nest for queen quality (laying pattern) and evidence of disease

Remove winter preparations: hive wrap, insulated cover, sugar bricks and mouse guards

Monitor brood nest for congestion

Add supers to strong colonies before nectar flow. Combine weak colonies.

Consider swarm control and prevention according to goals

Terry Lieberman-Smith discussed swarm call preparedness and etiquette and presented NUCS – An Insurance Policy For Your Apiary

Minutes by CR for Donna

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

MVBA Apiary Report April 2021


Welcome to April in the Apiary! The bees have had some good weather days to be out, and some cooler, overcast days where they just stayed in. On April 4th, the weather was good enough to take a peek in the hive. Here is what I noted for each of the two hives we currently have:

< The Meadow BNC-07 View

Apr 4, 2021 at 5:40 PM

Queen ●	Condition ●	Honey 4
Eggs ●	Activity ●	Brood 3
Larva ●	Temper ●	Comb 3
Brood ●	Laying ●	Empty 0

Notes - Colony very weak, not sure how well the Queen is doing. Saw the Queen, she has only about half a frame of brood. Collapsed the hive to one box, and added a frame of brood/bees from BNC-08.



This hive caused a lot of concern when I opened it. We readily found the Queen, but she only had half a frame of brood scattered across two frames. There were bees on only three frames, so this colony hasn't come out of Winter as resilient as


some of the others in our beeyards. Hoping that all they need is a little "push" to get things set correctly, I added a frame of brood and bees from BNC-08. We'll see at the next inspection if the Queen got kickstarted, or if we need to replace her.

< The Meadow BNC-08 View

Apr 4, 2021 at 6:11 PM

Queen ●	Condition ●	Honey 7
Eggs ●	Activity ●	Brood 10
Larva ●	Temper ●	Comb 3
Brood ●	Laying ●	Empty 0

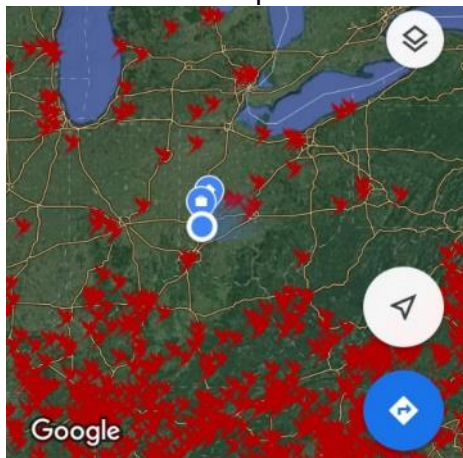
Notes - Colony looking strong. Moved frame of brood/bees to BNC-07. Saw Queen.



As weak as the other hive is, this one looked really strong. I think my emphasis this year will be to re-build the Apiary, using this colony as our starting point. The Queen in this hive comes from a consistently hardy, productive line. Her mother was the Queen of BNC-03 at Brukner Nature Center, a line which has over-wintered since 2018, when I first started Apiary record-keeping. I think we can build a

strong Apiary this summer from this colony.

When to do these splits for increase? Looking at the Hummingbird Migration Map for 16 April:



The answer is now! The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird migration is upon us, and you can see it in all the blossoms around as well. Now is the time when honeybees are wanting to build comb, and increase their number. We'll work to take advantage of that, and get some of our Winter losses back.

I'll let you know how that all goes, and hopefully I'll have a report next month with pics of some additional hives. Until then, may your bees bring in the prettiest pollen and sweetest nectar!

Patrick Reese
Apiary Manager

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/>

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