

**Buzzin' About**

**April 2022**

# **The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association**

**Newsletter**

**Monday April 4, 2022**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Tipp City Library and via Zoom!**

**Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81465053473>**

**Agenda**

**Club Updates**

**Volunteer Sign-ups**



**Guest Speaker:**

**Sam Romeo**

**Aullwood Audubon Nature Center**

**Topic:**

**Pollinators, Solitary Bees and Bee  
Friendly Plants**

**Renew your membership**

Can't attend this month's meeting?

Use the renewal form on page 5.

Or go online:

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

## President Notes

### Who's the new guy?

As the newly-elected MVBA President, I would like to introduce myself and tell you my beekeeping background. I'm only in my fourth season of beekeeping so I still consider myself a new-bee. It started with my son, Joshua, who was awarded a OSBA 4-H partnership grant in 2019 which provided the wood-ware and frames for 2 hives along with connecting him with a mentor from MVBA, Michael Smoot. The mentorship and education opportunities were the best part of this program. Joshua enjoyed the first year with the bees and we were successful, but his interests shifted as he started high school and now I'm the full-time urban beekeeper of our 5 hives. I discovered a passion for honey bees and other pollinators and now I love sharing knowledge with anyone who's willing to listen. Plus, I love being "the bee guy" to family, friends, and folks in my community.

My near-term goals as MVBA President are to line up a diverse set of speakers for our monthly meetings and get a feel for our club direction based on feedback from the current members. This feedback will come in the form of surveys and just talking with folks, so please email or text me with any ideas or

suggestions. My long-term goal for the club is to continue providing educational opportunities for our club members and visitors.

I was pleased with the turnout at the March meeting, both in-person and on Zoom. Kim Flottum's talk on the "10 Rules of Modern Beekeeping" was very informative and a great way to kick off the 2022 speakers. Our speaker on April 4 will be Sam Romeo, Environmental Educator from Aullwood Audubon Nature Center and Farm. This will be an in-person talk (and presented via Zoom) on the topic of pollinators, solitary bees, and pollinator-friendly plants. Sam is engaging, knowledgeable, and a fantastic naturalist. Please plan to attend!

April is a busy time in the apiary. If you have not already inspected your hives on some of the warmer days, make it a priority so you can assess what needs done. Start planning now what you think you will need in May - think of it as a gift to your future beekeeping self. You will be grateful for this planning when the nectar flow starts.

Happy beekeeping!

Jeff Adler  
MVBA President

## MVBA Treasurer Report

**Brian Willis**

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct March 2022	\$ 3,558.81	\$ 3,881.41	\$ 322.60	Beginning Balance March 2022
<b>Income</b>				<b>Income during Meeting</b>
Member Dues Paypal/Checks	\$ 20.00		\$ 240.00	Member Dues (collected \$260 but need to return \$20 of overpayment)
	\$ -			
Total for Deposit	\$ 20.00		\$ 240.00	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 260.00</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>				<b>Expenses</b>
March Speaker Fee (Kim Flottum) check mailed 3/10	\$ (100.00)		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ (100.00)			Total Cashbox Withdrawals
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ (100.00)</b>		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance March 15 2022	\$ 3,478.81		\$ 562.60	Ending Cash Balance March 15 2022
Monthly total Net change		\$ 160.00		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 3,881.41		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 4,041.41		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
<b>Total Holdings 15 March 2022 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)</b>		<b>\$ 4,041.41</b>		

# MVBA Secretary Report March 2022

Attendance 36 (in person/via zoom)

Meeting was opened by Chrystal Reese, 2021 President.

First order of business was election to fill the vacant positions of President and Vice President. Jeff Adler was nominated for the position of President, leaving a Member At Large vacancy if elected. Fran Davidson was nominated for the position of Vice President. Tim Reuber was nominated for the position of Member At Large.

All nominations were 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the majority vote was in favor and all were elected to the positions they were nominated for.

Elections were followed by the new President leading the meeting with a reminder to emergency feed, prepare equipment now for the upcoming Spring and he recommended attending conferences to increase your knowledge and success in beekeeping.

There was a brief Treasurer's Report by Jeff Adler and Apiary Report by Patrick Reese.

Presentation by Mr. Kim Flottum on 10 Rules of Modern Beekeeping

1. Good Queens – She should be laying 2,000 eggs every day when she's in full swing. He explained the methods to determine how many eggs she's laying over a 12 day period.
2. Good Genetics
3. Pest Management – Test, test, test!
4. Manage Swarming
5. Environment-Be Safe – Avoid pesticides, stay isolated, replace old wax every 2 years, recordkeeping
6. Enough Room at the Right Time – Predicting how much room your bees will need
7. Enough Good Food – Don't forget water \*Tip\* Add honey be healthy to a new water source to help them find it
8. Only Healthy Hives – Above all, Avoid Stress. Be proactive with food, queens, medications, room
9. Winter Well – Take extra care of the bees late July for the next 2 generations for strong winter bees
10. Food Safety – Prevent contamination, avoid heat, check moisture, clean containers

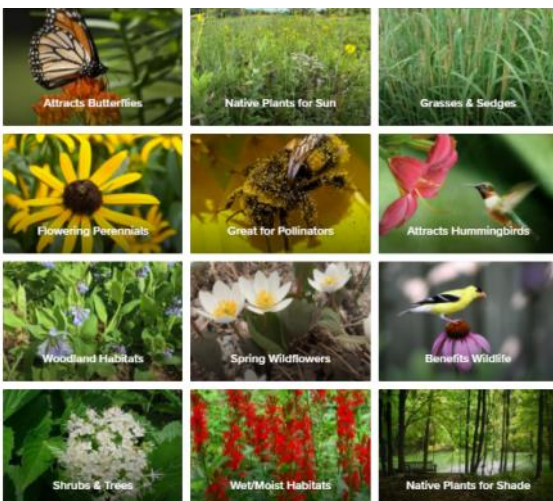
[www.BeekeepingTodaypodcast.com](http://www.BeekeepingTodaypodcast.com)

[www.HoneyBeeObscura.com](http://www.HoneyBeeObscura.com)

[www.2MillionBlossoms.com](http://www.2MillionBlossoms.com)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

## Native Plants for Pollinators



Pre-order your plants from March 11 - April 15 for pick up at Aullwood Farm, 9101 Frederick Pike, Dayton Ohio from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM on April 22 and 23 and 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on April 24. When you place your order, the site will ask you to select a specific pickup date and time window that best suits your schedule to get your plants. When you arrive at Aullwood for pickup volunteers will have your order ready.

Profits from Aullwood's Native Plant Sale provide critical funding needed for ongoing programs of environmental education and habitat preservation in our local area.

<https://aullwood.company.site./Browse-All-Plants-c86681193>

# 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

### 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
- Renew your subscription to Bee Culture and American Bee Journal

Remember to register your hives: [Plant Health Forms | Ohio Department of Agriculture](#)

### 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!

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## Miami Valley Beekeepers Association Membership Form 2022

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

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Make checks out to: Miami Valley Beekeepers Association and Remit Payment to:

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

2455 Piqua-Troy Rd

Troy, OH 45373

## 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.