

Buzzin' About

May 2022

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

**Monday May 2, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Tipp City Library and via Zoom!

Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83213452240>

**Agenda
Club Updates
Volunteer Sign-ups**



**Guest Speaker:
Mel Seal
Blue Sky Bee Supply**



**Topic:
Honey Bee Nutrition
Practical Feeding: 3 out of 4 Seasons**

Renew your membership

Can't attend this month's meeting?

Use the renewal form on page 2.

Or go online:

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

President Notes

May: All About Transitions

Happy spring to my fellow beekeepers! It's really starting to feel like the beekeeping season is in full swing now. All kinds of pollen is coming in, capped brood is on the frames, reports of drones and queen cells -- it's a busy time in the hive.

As announced at the April meeting, MVBA has a club email now: miamivalleyba@gmail.com. This email will be used to send messages to club members and can be used for any general inquiries. It will be monitored by several members of the MVBA Board, so you can use it to send information for review or to ask questions. Add the club email to your address book so these messages don't go to your spam folder. You should have already received several messages from the club, so please ensure MVBA has your latest email address.

The five hives that made up the MVBA apiary located on the Reese property have been sold and transferred to MVBA members! Additionally, the lot of 10-frame woodenware and equipment was also sold. This took some effort from various folks in a short amount of time, but ultimately went smoothly. Big thanks to everyone involved and if you were the recipient of any of these items, I sincerely hope they benefit your apiary in the long run.

For anyone interested in being a mentor to other beekeepers OR if you would like to have a mentor,

please send a message to the club email with your interest. Our club's strength is the collective knowledge and experience of its members, and mentoring is one way to share this with others within our club and outside of it.

As I anticipate my apiary's needs for May, I vividly remember a week of daily swarms that happened last year. I plan to make some spring splits to better manage my hives this year and it would be good for you to devise a plan as well. It is better to be proactive as we enter the spring swarming season while also assessing your goals:

- Do you want tons of bees to make up nucs?
- Do you want strong honey production?
- Do you want to breed queens?
- Do you want your apiary size to remain the same?
- Do you want to simply enjoy the bees?

Answers to these questions will help determine your approach.

Happy spring and happy beekeeping!

Jeff Adler
MVBA President

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association Membership Form 2022

Membership dues are \$20 per calendar year

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 Secretary Report April 2022

Attended by 28 in person and 4 via zoom.

Opening announcements by Jeff Adler, President Shared news about Apiary Manager Patrick Reese medical diagnosis and decision to no longer manage hives. Personal hives and equipment donated to the club. Email will be coming out shortly to members for the opportunity to purchase the equipment at a greatly reduced price. Some of the items are full boxes with frames and drawn comb, queen excluders, escape boards, inner and outer covers, bottom boards, stands, and green boards.

Waiting on a certificate of inspection to be able to sell the two club hives and three personal hives donated to the club.

The board called a special meeting on Apr 1, 2022 and following were the results:

The club now has an official email account that board members will monitor. miamivalleyba@gmail.com

Historically, very few people participated in the club apiary inspections. Therefore, the decision was made to no longer maintain a club apiary. If you would like to host people during your own inspections, please reach out to the board members to pass on the information.

The website is undergoing some updates and will be a useful resource for information on the club. [Miami Valley Beekeepers Association – Join us for a bee-keeping adventure \(ohiostatebeekeepers.org\)](https://miamivalleyba.org)

Other Announcements:

A sign up sheet for the swarm list was made available and several people signed up.

Announced that the club has a honey extractor available for member use free of charge. Requires a \$30 deposit, refundable upon return in clean and working order. It can be checked out for 3 days from Donna Meade in Tipp City. Request through the miamivalleyba@gmail.com

The club purchased an Oxy Vap (oxalic acid vaporizer) and inverter for use by club members to treat their hives. You need to provide your own oxalic acid and respirator rated to be used with organic acids! It will run off 110v or a car battery. Request use through the club email.

Fran Davidson, Vice President, passed around two lists to sign up to request or be a mentor. If you need a mentor or wish to be one, send a message to the club through the gmail account and she will try and match you up.

She also shared price lists from two different Amish suppliers. However, since they don't have phones, she recommends you send them a post card well in advance of your visit with a very specific list, i.e. 8 frame medium box, assembled and painted, etc, and date and time you will pick up. CLOSED SUNDAYS

Program:

High energy and very informative program presented by guest speaker Sam Romeo, Environmental Educator-Aullwood Audobon, Benefits of Native Landscaping

He spoke in depth on the cost of conventional landscaping - resource intensive and high air pollution emissions, high water consumption, time intensive and costly. Ecological impact of invasive species and ornamentals cannot support biodiversity. Without the right plants that support insects-the food web is broken.

Benefits of Native Landscaping – No synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, no regular mowing or watering, less time intensive, less costly, increased stormwater infiltration, supports native insects.

The Native Plant sale is live now at Aullwood Autobon Center.

He recommended the free app seek by iNaturalist to identify plants, animals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, etc. with your cell phone.

MVBA Treasurer Report– May

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct April 2022	\$ 3,478.81	\$ 4,041.41	\$ 562.60	Beginning Balance April 2022
Income				Income during Meeting
Member Dues Paypal/Checks/Apiary Sales	\$ 305.00		\$ 400.00	Member Dues and Apiary sales
	\$ -			
Total Income	Total for Deposit \$ 305.00	\$ 705.00	\$ 400.00	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Expenses				Expenses
OSBA Membership Fee Check 1456	\$ (110.00)		\$ (100.00)	April Speaker Fee (Aullwood)
	\$ -		\$ (225.00)	Ovalis Vaporizer Purchase
	\$ -			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ (110.00)		\$ (325.00)	Total Cashbox Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ (435.00)		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance April 15 2022	\$ 3,673.81		\$ 637.60	Ending Cash Balance April 15 2022
Monthly total Net change		\$ 270.00		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 4,041.41		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 4,311.41		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
A Total Holdings 15 April 2022 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 4,311.41		

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