

Buzzin' About

August 2022

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

**Monday, August 1, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Tipp City Library

Agenda

**Honey Extraction at the Library
Check out a variety of helpful tools**

Please bring any tools you find most helpful for honey extracting or beekeeping in general—these can be purchased or DIY.

President Notes

Sanitation & Cleanliness Can Prevent Future Headaches

Happy summer, everyone! It was great discussing various beekeeping resources at the July meeting. I'm sure you are staying busy in the beeyards and maybe even making a sticky mess with some honey extraction and bottling. I hope to be in that situation very soon but so far my hives seem a little behind this season in capping the honey.

First off, I'm excited that we will do a hands-on honey extraction at our August meeting. Please plan to attend! This is a great opportunity for new beekeepers or those interested in the process. It's definitely the most rewarding part of this crazy hobby. I know some of the more experienced beekeepers may be thinking "*Why would I spend my free time extracting someone else's honey?*" For them I can offer two reasons to participate: 1) You can always learn something new, and 2) Others can benefit from your knowledge. I hope folks will bring tools they find helpful in honey extracting or beekeeping in general. Last year Patrick Reese showed us his DIY uncapping tank and we used a variety of uncapping tools. I remember trying the manual extractor and being very impressed with how easy it was to use. If those aren't reason enough, it's always nice to hang out with other beekeepers to compare notes on how things are going.

Changing over to the topic of sanitation and cleanliness, I know you've been told to "wash your filthy hands" many times since childhood. It is good advice for many situations (especially before meals), but especially important in beekeeping. It's a good idea to have a handful of hive tools on hand and only use one per hive to prevent cross-contamination of any diseases from one hive to the next. I heard a talk from Dr. Meghan Milbrath (our Oct speaker) where she keeps a tote with bleach water in her truck and tosses "used" hive tools in it during inspections. At the end of the day she cleans them up and they're ready for the next day. I know hive

tools aren't cheap, but it's a good investment if having multiple on hand can prevent issues in your apiary.

Additionally, sanitation is very important when extracting honey for sale to the general public. Start with clean surfaces, clean tools, a clean extractor, clean bottles, clean hands, and a tidy workspace. While extracting, keep lids on buckets and the extractor to prevent any foreign material from being introduced to your liquid gold. Lids can also help to keep moisture out of your honey since it is hygroscopic. Clean and sanitize your honey bottles and make sure they are spotless! Keep a supply of clean rags around to wipe up drips and keep things less sticky (as best you can!). And once you are done, clean up all of your equipment so it's ready for next time. All of these things take time and effort but ultimately can prevent a lot of future headaches such as:

- Foreign objects in your honey do not look appetizing and can be a health issue. Your name is on that bottle so make the effort to represent yourself and your business appropriately.
- Honey that absorbs moisture from the air or with too high moisture content can lead to fermentation and cannot be sold as honey (mead anyone?).
- Dirty bottles have less appeal on a store shelf and won't sell as well.

Dirty equipment does not last as long and/or will not work as effectively as clean equipment.

Honey bees keep a clean house and we can do well to follow their example.

Hope to see you on August 1!

Jeff Adler
MVBA President

MVBA Secretary Report June 2022

Provided by Tim Reuber

President Jeff Adler opened the meeting at 7 pm sharp. He welcomed the people present (12) and those on the Zoom feed (2). He also welcomed a new member. He explained that there is no formal speaker and this meeting was an exchange of ideas, tips, hacks and practices. He notified those present that if members are selling bee related materials that they are welcome to advertise of the Club's Web page, Contact Donna Meade with your information to be added at miamivalley-ba@gmail.com.

He addressed several issues for July pertaining to apiary management. Inquired of members if they've noticed a drop in the number of swarms and call outs about swarms. Most members replied that it seems to be slowing down. If you haven't, you can be pulling honey supers and harvesting your honey. You can let the bees clean the spun frames before putting them back into you hives. You also can be performing splits which will give you a new colony and will provide a brood break allowing you to treat for mites if you so choose. A couple members stated that they choose to find the current Queen, kill her and re-Queen with a new Queen.

President Adler stated next MVBA will be August 1st and there will be an extracting session and a show and tell session.

VP Fran did a demo and discussion of winter feeding and how she makes sugar cakes. NOW is the time to be prepping this resource. Give it plenty of time to dry versus prepping them in November or later. You do not want any addition moisture in your colonies. Her method is one half cup of boiling water stirred into roughly 4 pounds of sugar. This provides two good sized bricks for winter feeding. The members discussed their various methods and materials for winter feeding. The takeaway is you may have to supplemental feed. Prep now, not later. Fran explained that bees may not move laterally during the winter to their outside honey stores, these act as an insulator and the bees may not consume these. This is another reason for supplemental feeding. Placing the sugar bricks over the center of the hives will ensure the bees may move up and eat there.

Fran and Tom attended a Conference in Evans-

ville, Indiana where they gleaned a lot of information. Some of the speakers were Randy Oliver, Randy Hayes, Cam Reynolds. They expressed the reasons to go to these is the information provided is the latest and greatest information by the experts, getting this type of info makes better beekeepers. The OSBA Conference will be 28/29 Oct in Wooster Ohio where some of the more notable experts in the field will be doing presentations.

Fran discussed the importance of "Bee Space" in the hive but most importantly in the brood boxes. Careful placement of frames can prevent headaches down the road. She also addressed the dreaded wax moth. She explained how she and Tom store their frames. There were discussions among the members as to their methods. Stacking, sealing and use of para moth was discussed. PARA MOTH and not moth balls, there is a difference.

President Adler discussed some of his "go to" reference books; Backyard Beekeeper and Beekeeping for Dummies are two of his favorites. "Queen Spotting" is another source book he recommends, it helps develop techniques to train your eyes to spot your Queens. Honey Bee Suite is a web page he references and recommends. There are many FB and YouTube sources out there. Be sure to vet the sources of the information. For example, make sure the techniques and information you're viewing is applicable to your latitude and longitude....information/methods from southern Texas or Louisiana may not be applicable to central Ohio. Tim brought up the "Canadian beekeeper" on YouTube as a good source as to how easy beekeeping is here compared to northern Canada.

President Adler opened it up to questions of the group. New member thought he was having issues with his new package drawing comb. Thought it would be a very quick process. The group explained that what he is experiencing is "normal"....new bees are going to be producing the wax, and that those new bees will take some time. Group explained to feed, feed, and feed. Be patient and it will happen. President Adler asked what people use for sting relief. Many use honey to relieve the burn of the sting.

(Continued on page 4)

MVBA Treasurer Report– June

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct July 2022	\$ 4,736.41	\$ 4,821.41	\$ 85.00	Beginning Balance July 2022
Income				Income during Meeting
Member Dues Paypal/Checks/	\$ -		\$ -	Member Dues
	\$ -			
Total for Deposit	\$ -		\$ -	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Total Income		\$ -		
Expenses				Expenses
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ -		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawls
Total Expenses		\$ -		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance July 15 2022	\$ 4,736.41		\$ 85.00	Ending Cash Balance July 15 2022
Monthly total Net change		\$ -		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 4,821.41		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 4,821.41		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
BA Total Holdings 15 July 2022 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 4,821.41		

(Continued from page 3)

President Adler explained that the club honey has been sold to Reu Juicery. A five gallon bucket and a two gallon bucket was warmed by Tim Reuber. The two gallon bucket was good but the five gallon bucket had fermented. Tim offered and bought the five gallon bucket with approval of the board for 25 dollars. He will attempt to make mead with it. The two gallon bucket was turned over to President Adler. Reu Juicery might be a good place to sell your honey, they use a lot.

Tim Reuber notified the group of a cut out offer east of Christiansburg Ohio on SR55. He confirmed that they are honeybees. They are in a second story soffit above a porch. The young man wants them removed rather than exterminated. Contact information is Darren Bovey, cell phone is 937-508-7766. He will also ask Donna to post to web page.

Discussion of swarm captures and methods (not boxes, swarms in bushes, trees, etc.) took place. Tim Reuber showed his collapsible laundry basket and how he uses it. It is handy for a couple of reasons...it's lightweight, and you can put the swarm in your apiary of choice. It really helps him to keep from handling wooden ware multiple times. Tom discussed the PVC pole and the inverted water jug for capturing the higher hanging swarms.

Discussion of a generic Apivar that might be coming out later. Tactic is the name. More info to follow. With no further discussion President Adler adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

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

Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

Nectar Sources: Basswood (American Linden), Yellow Sweet Clover, White Sweet Clover, Milkweed, Mints, Bergamot, Loosestrifes, Vetches,

Nectar and Pollen: Catalpa, Bramble fruits, Roses, Coneflowers, Ohio Buckeye, Rubeckia, Thistles, Hyssops, Coreopsis, Caryopteris

Pollen: St. John's Wort

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

August

- Check colonies for disease and monitor/treat for mites
- Remove and extract summer honey crop
- Remove section Supers
- Do not work bees unless necessary to avoid robbing
- Add more supers if needed.
- Consider re-queening for a winter-ready hive.

September

- Check colonies for disease and monitor/treat for mites
- Provide supers for fall goldenrod and aster flow
- Requeen Colonies
- Unite weak colonies
- Decide winter feeding options, if needed. Prepare equipment
- Review inventory—make a wish list of equipment.

SEASONAL RESOURCE PAGE

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 Honey B Healthy. 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.

Sugar Bricks :

While there are many recipes, here are two reputable links:

www.mdasplitter.com/docs/candy.pdf

How to Make Homemade Sugar Bricks
(betterbee.com)

Protect your Fall Bees - Start Early with Wasp Traps

