

Buzzin' About

June 2022

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

**Monday, June 6. 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Tipp City Library and via Zoom!

Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89209550442>

**Agenda
Club Updates
Volunteer Sign-ups**

**Guest Speaker:
Mark Beougher, OSBA Traveling Speaker**

**Topic:
Honeycomb Management**

Renew your membership

Can't attend this month's meeting?

Use this link to join or renew your membership:

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

President Notes

Summer Time & Beekeeping Hacks

Happy June fellow beekeepers! I'm actually writing this a few weeks before June so I'm hoping that swarm season has died down, the bees are hard at work bringing in a variety of nectar, and the queens are laying eggs in a way that results in wall-to-wall frames of capped brood. It's not too late for a swarm, so keep up those hive inspections and make sure your hives have plenty of room for brood & nectar.

Have you ever been in the middle of a hive inspection or some apiary maintenance and realized you have a bee inside your suit or maybe up your pant legs? Maybe you can ignore it, but not me! Even if she's content where she is, I cannot focus on anything other than getting her out. Here are some beekeeping "hacks" to prevent these situations:

- I wear silicone bracelets on my beesuit's cuffs. These bracelets get handed out at festivals, fairs, or parades; they are half-inch wide and just stretchy enough to get over my cuffs but not let in any bees (see pictures). They work fine with nitrile or latex gloves, too.



- To keep bees from going up my pant legs or having access to my ankles, I found some bicycling velcro straps work well to cinch closed my pant cuffs (see picture). Some larger rubber bands or velcro would also work. Alternatively, I tuck my pant cuffs into my socks. Fashionable? No, but my neighbors already know I'm crazy because of the beehives in my yard.



Smoker fuel is always an interesting topic among beekeepers. For me I prefer long pine needles (not the short & pointy ones), denim from old blue jeans, punk wood, pine cones occasionally, and sometimes cardboard. I'll usually use some combination of those items but mainly it's whatever I can find for free. Packing paper from Amazon deliveries = perfect starter fuel. One drawback of pine needles is they seem to burn hot if packed loosely, so I try to pack my smoker pretty well and I'll even add a handful of green grass on top to cool down the smoke. What do you use for smoker fuel? Do you buy it or gather it from somewhere?

As the days get warmer and longer, please remember to stay hydrated out in your bee yards! The protective gear and lifting honey supers in the June sun can result in lots of sweating, so make sure you drink fluids and stay healthy. Similarly, make sure your bees have a good water source. Instead of feeding syrup using in-hive feeders, I plan to experiment by offering water in my feeders to see if it helps with honey production. (Full disclosure: I heard this tip last year from Mark Beougher who is this month's speaker!)

I'm looking forward to our next meeting and hearing about your beekeeping "hacks", but mainly I'm excited to hear the talk about honeycomb management which is a new topic from the OSBA Traveling Speaker series. Hope to see you there!

Club email: MiamiValleyBA@gmail.com

Jeff Adler
MVBA President

MVBA Secretary Report May 2022

Attended by 16 in person and 11 online.

Opening announcements by Jeff Adler, MVBA President.

Treasurer report by Brian Willis.

Presentation by Melanie Seal, Blue Sky Bee Supply, on Honeybee Nutrition
Mel explained the reasoning of why, when and what to feed your bees.

- Early Spring – Assess your stores and apply solid carb source.
- Mid-Spring – Feed to compensate for a shortage of honey stores. 1:1 sugar syrup, no honey supers on.
- Late Spring – Always feed new packages or nucs 1:1 syrup, but be careful how much pollen sub you feed.
- Early Summer – Don't feed with honey supers on. Feed to draw out comb on captured swarms. 1:1
- Feed to raise queens 1:1 & pollen sub
- Late Summer – Learn to identify dearth and feed when needed.
- Fall – By Sep 23rd it's time to plan fall feeding. Feed 2:1 syrup until Thanksgiving or it starts snowing or until they stop taking it if stores are too light.

MVBA Treasurer Report– June

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct May 2022	\$ 3,673.81	\$ 4,311.41	\$ 637.60	Beginning Balance May 2022
Income				Income during Meeting
Member Dues Paypal/Checks/Apiary Sales	\$ 90.00		\$ 420.00	Member Dues and Apiary sales
	\$ -			
Total for Deposit	\$ 90.00		\$ 420.00	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Total Income		\$ 510.00		
Expenses				Expenses
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ -		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ -		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ 972.60	\$ -	\$ (972.60)	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance May 15 2022	\$ 4,736.41		\$ 85.00	Ending Cash Balance May 15 2022
Monthly total Net change		\$ 510.00		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 4,311.41		
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 May 2022 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 4,821.41		

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

Pollen Sources Walnut

Nectar: Ground-ivy, Sour Gum Tree, Buckthorns, Viburnums, Locust Trees, Tulip Poplar, Common Privet, Basswood, Linden, Candytuft, Lambs Ear, Vetch

Nectar and Pollen: Serviceberry, Shadbush, Hawthorns, Blackberries, Chives, Cotoneaster, Leopard's Bane, Redbud, Strawberry, White Sweet Clover,

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

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

July

- Remove comb honey supers when properly sealed.
- Check for queen cells, especially in colonies used for queen rearing.
- Add sufficient super space (undersuper).
- Remove and extract early season honey crop.
- Freeze comb honey to prevent wax moth damage