

The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

Newsletter

Monday, September 12, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Tipp City Library

Downstairs Meeting Room

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88595639763>

Agenda Club Updates

Guest Speaker: Tom Davidson

**Topic: Early Overwinter Tasks & Mite Treatment
Analysis**

President Notes

Winter bees?? But it's only Labor Day!

This time of year is always bittersweet to me: the long, hot summer days are done and school buses are back in the neighborhood reminding me that summer is wrapping up. Spring and summer honey has been harvested and I love seeing the golden jars of happiness just waiting to be sold to repeat customers or shared with friends and family.

As summer gives way to autumn it's a good reminder that as beekeepers we should always be working one season ahead. I'm not quite there yet in practice, but at least I'm starting to think more in the future instead of just dealing with

what's happening in the hives today. To that end, here's a friendly reminder (if you need it) to prepare your hives for winter by doing mite treatments, making up sugar bricks for moisture management and/or emergency feed, and maybe even combining a weak hive with a stronger one.

I know it's crazy to bring it up already, but there are things to do now to help ensure healthy winter bees. Here's a great article by Rusty Burlew that explains winter bees:

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/what-are-winter-bees-and-what-do-they-do>

Some highlights that I found especially insightful:

- Winter worker bees are produced when pollen becomes scarce.

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- Winter bees are distinct from summer bees by the presence of enlarged fat bodies in their abdomens. This fat body provides several functions, but of vital importance is the ability to secrete brood food even in the absence of fresh pollen.
- While nectar provides energy to a hive, pollen provides everything else including protein, fat, lipids, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.
- Feeding supplemental pollen patties can be beneficial to a hive, but timing matters. Providing pollen substitute may be most beneficial *after* the winter bees have emerged, closer to the mid-winter timeframe.
- Varroa mites feed on a bee's fat bodies, so winter bees are an excellent nutritional target for varroa! It is very important to manage your mite loads *before* winter bees enter the larval stage.

- To summarize, winter bees provide the means for colony survival through our Ohio winters and a great way to help them is to ensure low varroa mite loads as the fall flow wraps up. If you have not done so already, implement a treatment strategy now since your colony's winter bees will be emerging soon.

I hope you learned something and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Jeff Adler
MVBA President



August 30 – **Planting and Managing Wildflowers for Forage**
K. Parys, USDA-ARS

September 27 – **Behavior, Chemical Ecology, and Genetics of Varroa Destructor**
T. Reams, Texas A&M University

MVBA Secretary Report August 2022

There were 14 members in attendance for our annual honey harvest. There were 12 frames extracted, giving everyone in attendance a chance to uncap frames and try out some favorite tools.

Jeff Adler brought his refractometer and we measured the moisture content of the honey, which was about 15%. This is a necessary tool for beekeepers because honey with a moisture content of over 18% can ferment. These devices can be obtained through various sources for about \$20-\$25.

We used the MVBA club extractor to extract the honey, which is available free for members use with a \$35 refundable deposit when it is returned clean. Message lapetitelavender@gmail.com to arrange pickup in Tipp City.

Fran Davidson shared of video of how her and Tom Davidson remove bees from frames to extract using his own homemade device.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

MVBA Treasurer Report– July

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct August 2022	\$ 4,736.41	\$ 4,821.41	\$ 85.00	Beginning Balance August 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 Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ -		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance August 15 2022	\$ 4,736.41		\$ 85.00	Ending Cash Balance August 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		

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

The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

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.

October

- Prepare colonies for winter
- Begin fall feeding with heavy syrup (2 parts sugar to 1 part water), if needed
- Unite weak colonies with stronger colonies
- Put on entrance reducers to keep out vermin

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
\(betterbee.com\)](http://betterbee.com)

Protect your Fall Bees - Start Early with Wasp Traps

