

# The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

## Newsletter

**Monday, November 7, 2022**

7:00 p.m. Tipp City Library

November topic: Gadgets, MVBA elections, Food, and Raffle

**\*\* Bring your best beekeeping gadgets or "hacks" \*\***

No speaker at the final meeting of the year.

No Zoom link - please attend in-person for a chance to win prizes

### MVBA Treasurer Report- October

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct Oct 2022	\$ 5,916.41	\$ 6,026.41	\$ 110.00	Beginning Balance Oct 2022
Income				Income during Meeting
Transfer dues from Paypal account and cash	\$ 230.46		\$ -	
	\$ -			
Total for Deposit	\$ 230.46		\$ -	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 230.46</b>		
Expenses				Expenses
Purchased Checks	\$ (29.99)		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
Will be october speaker fee of \$150 but hasn't cleared yet.	\$ -			
Total Check Withdrawls/Debits	\$ (29.99)		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawls
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ (29.99)</b>		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (25.00)	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance Oct 15 2022	\$ 6,116.88		\$ 85.00	Ending Cash Balance Oct 15 2022
Monthly total Net change		\$ 200.47		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 6,026.41		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 6,226.88		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
<b>BA Total Holdings 15 Oct 2022 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)</b>		<b>\$ 6,201.88</b>		

## President Notes

### Reflecting on 2022

Looking back on this year with MVBA, it's easy to forget what all has happened. I am an advocate for holding what's called a "retrospective", which is simply an opportunity to identify what things went well, what could have gone better, and then picking a few actionable items to improve in the future. If time permits, I may do this as a club at our November meeting.

Some things that I feel went well for MVBA this year:

- Selling the apiary and a trailer full of bee-keeping equipment
- Continuing our meetings at the Tipp City Public Library
- New members! Lots of new faces at meetings
- The club treasury has adequate funds and very little expenses
- The variety of speakers, both in-person and over Zoom, covered a variety of topics and contributed to some great beekeeping education and discussion
- The hands-on honey extraction at the August meeting was great for new beekeepers in the club

A few things I feel could have gone better:

- Attendance fluctuated significantly from

month to month

- Zoom was great to bring in speakers but was not utilized by many members
- It always seemed like 8:30 PM came too quickly and then we were rushing to get out of the library; not much time for general mingling and catching up
- The club did not actively do much community outreach

I have enjoyed my term as club president and serving you! I tried to find speakers and topics that would appeal to the wide range of interests of the club's members, but I'm open to suggestions. Please share your ideas with me or any of the MVBA Board members. I also tried to keep the meetings interesting and informative, but if you have ideas that will help improve future meetings, please share!

I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting. Please bring any gadgets or "hacks" that help you in your apiary (purchased or home-made) to share with the club. We will also hold elections, enjoy some tasty treats, and raffle off a variety of prizes.

Jeff Adler  
MVBA President

## MVBA Elections

MVBA will hold elections at the November meeting as required by our club Constitution. This is a great way to get involved and help ensure the club's future. Positions and descriptions are:

- President - The duties of the President shall be to preside at all meetings. The President shall be a de facto member of all committees. In the event of a tied vote, the President's vote shall be weighted. NOTE: The President also secures speakers for each meeting.
- Vice President - The duties of the Vice President shall be to assist the President and preside at any meeting during the absence of the President.
- Secretary - The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings at all meetings and send a copy to all the board members via email. Keep a record of all active members and update the list as needed. Create any signup sheets needed throughout the year.
- Treasurer - Keep the list of active membership. Keep a record of all monies collected for the Association and all monies disbursed, and prepare an annual report for the first meeting of each year. There will also be an annual audit performed during the November meeting by a committee of three (3) members appointed by the President.
- Member At-Large (2 positions) - Member of the Executive Board.



These 6 positions make up the Executive Board.

**Nominations for positions on the Executive Board need to be sent to the President prior to the November meeting.**

Please send an email to MVBA ([miamivalleyba@gmail.com](mailto:miamivalleyba@gmail.com)) OR contact Jeff Adler directly (call or text 719-352-5602 or email [spiff4455@gmail.com](mailto:spiff4455@gmail.com)).

## MVBA Secretary Report October 3, 2022

President Jeff Adler opened the meeting at 7pm. He welcomed those in attendance (23) and on those on zoom (1). Treasurer Brian Willis gave the Treasurer's Report. Jeff asked for member recommendations on their favorite beekeeping books so the club may use some funds to purchase books to donate to the library. Email your recommendations to: [miamivalleyba@gmail.com](mailto:miamivalleyba@gmail.com).

The OSBA Fall Conference will be held October 28 and 29 in Wooster, Ohio at the OARDC Campus. (It has since been cancelled)

MVBA will sponsor Keenan and Caitlin Hartley in 4H Youth Scholarship in beekeeping. Tom and Fran Davidson will be their mentors.

Apiary reminders – Get ready for winter by treating your hives, taking inventory or replenishing supplies, cleaning equipment, reflect on your practices from this year and what worked and what you'd like to change, and look for and attend conferences.

Fall festivals are a great place to sell your honey.

Last meeting of the year will be November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Tipp City Library. Elections for the MVBA Board will be held along with a potluck and/or desserts provided by members. You're encouraged to bring a dish and any tools or gadgets to share that you find useful in your apiary.

Presentation by Dr. Meghan Milbrath, Michigan State University Department of Entomology on "Towards Treatment Free". She discussed why just letting your bees fend for themselves against disease is not the way to achieve treatment free. She referenced a study performed on Gotland Island over a decade ago where 150 colonies were placed there and left to their own defenses against parasites as a research project. In a few years it declined to 12 colonies. The remaining bees were very small, didn't pro-

duce honey and were infested with varroa. If bees don't have the tools to get rid of the varroa mites, they are not going to be able to survive. Resistance takes a really long time to develop, and we live in a highly connected beekeeping world. Every beekeeper needs to manage their parasites.

She uses more than one type of treatment because varroa can develop a resistance. She uses Formic Pro in summer and again when removing honey, then oxalic at the end of the brood season, because oxalic damages brood. Hop Guard III is derived from hops and is not incredibly strong. It is good for a nuc, split or a very small colony and can be used with honey supers on.

She does NOT recommend putting things in your hives that have not been long term tested.

Here are some resources that you should find helpful related to her talk.

- Her website is <http://www.sandhillbees.com> . Lots of great articles and info there, especially the Education section.
- "Towards Treatment Free" paper: [http://www.sandhillbees.com/s/TreatmentFree\\_Oct2016.pdf](http://www.sandhillbees.com/s/TreatmentFree_Oct2016.pdf)
- Related to the paper and tonight's talk is the "Treatment Free?" section on her website: <http://www.sandhillbees.com/varroa>

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

## Beekeeping Book List

This is the list of books that were recommended by club members for MVBA to purchase for the Tipp City Public Library as a Thank You:



- Beekeeping for Dummies (5th Edition) by Howland Blackiston
- Honeybee Democracy by Thomas Seeley
- The Hive and the Honey Bee
- The Beekeeper's Handbook (5th Edition) by Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile
- The Beekeepers Bible: Bees, Honey, Recipes & Other Home Uses
- The Backyard Beekeeper (4th Edition) by Kim Flottum
- Following the Wild Bees: The Craft and Science of Bee Hunting by Tomas Seeley
- The Little Book of Bees by Hilary Kearney (kid-friendly)
- The Way of the Hive: A Honey Bee's Story by Jay Hosler (graphic novel, kid-friendly)
- Clan Apis by Jay Hosler (graphic novel, kid-friendly)

## Raffle Prizes for the November 7 Meeting

Steve Weherly (former MVBA member) donated the following items:

- Beekeeping suit (XL, used)
- Leather gloves, full arm coverage (used)
- LOTS of glass jars, various sizes (half-pint, pint, quart), some lids & bands
- 5-gallon plastic containers (used)

Additional prizes:

- Hive tools
- Bee brush
- Queen clip
- Red paint pen (to mark next year's queens)
- One-handed queen catcher (for marking)
- Push-in queen cage
- Uncapping tool
- Honey gates
- Plastic entrance adapter disc (4")
- Decorative hand towel



## 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](http://www.mdasplitter.com/docs/candy.pdf)

[How to Make Homemade Sugar Bricks  
\(betterbee.com\)](http://betterbee.com)

## Protect your Fall Bees - Wasp Traps

