

March 2023



The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Topic: 10 Myths of Beekeeping

Speaker: Fran Davidson

Next Meeting:
March 7 (Tuesday),

6:30 PM

**In-person at the
Tipp City Public Library
or Zoom**

**Please bring any bee yard gadgets you
wish to share**

Zoom link provided via email

**PLEASE NOTE THE
NEW TIME FOR OUR
CLUB MEETINGS:**

6:30 PM



Renew Your MVBA Membership Today!

Membership dues are \$20 per family / calendar year

Membership benefits include:

- **Monthly meetings (except Dec-Feb) with educational speakers**
- **Monthly newsletter with beekeeping articles and other features**
 - **Sponsoring public presentations and more!**

Make checks payable to:

Miami Valley Beekeepers Association

or PayPal link on MVBA website under “Join”

MVBA Swarm List

A Benefit of Being a MVBA Member

It pays to be an MVBA
member!

**The secretary, Donna, will
have forms at the
meeting.**

The list will be posted on
the MVBA website and
distributed to over 20+
county agencies including
fire departments, police
departments, parks,
townships, and nature
centers.

An Opportunity for Members:

We will have a sign up sheet
for those interested in being
listed on our website as a
vendor of honey, nucs,
woodenware, supplies,
queens, etc.

Spring? Is that you??

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays since our last meeting in November. All of that seems like a distant memory. The unseasonably warm days lately have me pining for spring weather while also knowing it comes with all kinds of outdoor activities and chores. Have you gotten out to see your bees flying on those warmer, summer days? Watching their activity and seeing light yellow pollen coming in brings me great joy.

I have a giant silver maple in my front yard which makes it easy to watch for that first bud out of the season. I'm 99% positive I caught the exact day: February 12. This always makes me hopeful since it's one of the earliest natural sources of pollen for honeybees. I've even noticed some blooming dandelions in my yard - more food! An excellent tool for tracking what's in bloom and what's coming up soon is Ohio State University's Phenology Calendar which provides the current Growing Degree Days (GDD) index.

Check it out here: <https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd>

If you have not already, use one of the nicer days to check on your hives: look for dead outs, check food stores (sugar bricks and/or total hive weight), watch for good entrance activity, and note any maintenance that needs to be done. We are still in the "danger zone" if we get any extended cold snaps, so maybe hold off on separating the boxes and pulling out frames. This is a good time to build woodenware, order supplies, attend workshops, read some books, make plans for spring splits or even order bees. All in all, let's get ready for another great year of beekeeping!

I will not be at the March meeting, but Fran Davidson (VP) will be presenting "10 Myths of Beekeeping" which should provide good info and spur some discussion. Also, she's asked folks to bring any gadgets you've created or find useful in your apiary.

Please plan to attend our first MVBA meeting on **March 7** - note that this is a **Tuesday** (due to library scheduling conflicts). Also, we are starting at **6:30 PM** to allow time for socializing and not have to rush everyone out at library closing time.

Happy Beekeeping!

Jeff

MVBA Meeting Minutes — November 7, 2022

Donna Meade, Secretary

Jeff Adler called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. There were 23 members and 3 guests in attendance for the end of year potluck, meeting and raffle.

Announcements for November:

Book list compiled for donation to the Tipp City Library to put in circulation. Books will be purchased and donated in the next month in appreciation for them letting us use their space for monthly meetings.

OSBA membership renewal is available for next year. The Fall Conference was cancelled due to low registration.

The recipients of the 4-H Youth Scholarship Program gave an update on the equipment they have received. They are very excited about beekeeping.

In the bee yard we should be preparing for winter by feeding if needed, adding quilt boxes and mouse guards, taking inventory and planning for Spring.

The Treasurer reported the club has \$6,201 in the account, but a \$150 speaker fee has not yet cleared the account.



Board Elections

Members waived the requirement to vote by paper ballot by unanimous vote.

The following candidates were elected for 2023 MVBA Board by unanimous votes.

Jeff Adler – President

Fran Davidson – Vice President

Secretary – Donna Meade

Brian Willis – Treasurer

Tim Reuber – Member at Large

George Doviak – Member at Large

The Board is planning to meet in January and will announce when we will resume meetings in 2023.

Members were provided raffle tickets to enter to win various items including bee suits, queen cages, marking pen, hive tools, uncapping tool, etc.



Members shared some of their favorite bee yard gadgets. Tom Davidson explained his swarm catching invention using a water bottle and pool cleaning pole.

Tim Reuber shared his magnetic arm band for keeping track of your hive tool, and a calf feeder bottle filled with 90% isopropyl alcohol in which he carries his hive tools to keep them clean and not spread disease from hive to hive.



Fran Davidson shared the importance of keeping your bee yard clean by using something like a disposable salad container to put wax scrapings in.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct Feb 2022	\$ 5,966.88	\$ 6,051.88	\$ 85.00	Beginning Balance Feb 2022
Income				Income during Meeting
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -			
Total for Deposit	\$ -		\$ -	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Total Income		\$ -		
Expenses				Expenses
Check 1458 (Final 2022 meeting supplies)	\$ (175.68)		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ (175.68)		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ (175.68)		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance Feb 15 2022	\$ 5,791.20		\$ 85.00	Ending Cash Balance Feb 15 2022
Monthly total Net change		\$ (175.68)		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 6,051.88		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 5,876.20		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
BA Total Holdings 15 Oct 2022 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 5,876.20		

Seasonal Resource Corner

Winter-Spring Feeding

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 every-thing 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 honeebhealthy. Once it is difficult to stir, turn out on cutting board or countertop that has been dusted with confectioner's sugar. Knead in remain-ing sugar.

Coat the fondant with a light layer of shortening to help keep it moist.

Wrap in several layers of plastic wrap.

The Buzz in the Apiary

March

- Continue emergency feeding, if necessary
- Feed pollen supplements or substitutes, if needed
- First quick inspection of brood nest, if weather permits
- Check for and clean up dead colonies
- Clean out entrances and bottom boards
- Attend conferences

April

- Monitor colony stores, esp. if weather is cold & wet
- Inspect brood nest for laying queen, disease, etc
- Introduce package bees on drawn combs
- Requeen colonies with failing queens
- Reverse brood chambers when weather moderates
- Add supers to strong colonies at maple or dandelion bloom
- Unite weak colonies
- Equalize strength of all colonies



2023 MVBA Board

Jeff Adler – President

Fran Davidson – Vice President

Donna Meade – Secretary

Brian Willis – Treasurer

Tim Reuber – Member at Large

George Doviak – Member at Large

Erica Adler – Newsletter (*non-voting*)

Newsletter Changes

Thank you so much to Terry Lieberman-Smith for all her dedication, time and talents used in creating MVBA's newsletters.

Erica Adler is taking over as the new newsletter editor.

If you have ideas or content you would like to submit, please send to the club at MiamiValleyBA@gmail.com



SCAN ME

Package Honey Bees For Sale Pickup Locations

Cincinnati, Clyde, Napoleon, Lima, Londonderry & Tipp City areas

Visit www.olddrone.net for order forms

Steve Johnson

BASIC BEEKEEPING CLASS



Fran & Tom Davidson Master Beekeepers



Tom Davidson demonstrating hive insulation

*Presented by : **National Trail Parks and Recreation District- NTPRD***

Join Fran and Tom Davidson for a two part (7 hour) course about the amazing hobby/ business of beekeeping. The multi media course is designed for the beginning backyard beekeeper to successfully raise bees the first year and beyond. The course is also a fascinating exploration of honeybee biology and the challenging relationship between the honeybee and the modern beekeeper. Tom and Fran are owner/operators of "Golden Queen Honey" and are certified Master Beekeepers with 46 hives and 13 years successful business experience.

When:

2 Hours Thursday, March 30 6:30-8:30PM

6 Hours Saturday, April 1 9AM - 3PM

Break 12 -1 Bring your own lunch or buy locally

Where:

National Trail Administration Building

1301 Mitchell Boulevard

Springfield, OH 45503

Cost : \$40 per person. Registration deadline: 29 March 2023

Registration form on MVBA website under "Vendors & Links"