

April 2023



**The Miami Valley
Beekeepers Association
Newsletter**

Topic:

***Spring Splits &
Running a Bee
Business***

Speaker:

Michelle Huskins

Zoom link provided via email

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 3

6:30 PM

**In-Person at the
Tipp City Library**

or Zoom



The Buzz from the President — Jeff Adler

Fellow Beekeepers -

Have you noticed all of the signs of spring?

- ☑ We shifted our clocks forward an hour
- ☑ Birds are singing in the morning
- ☑ Crocuses are in bloom
- ☑ The grass is greening up
- ☑ Your bees have been doing orientation flights

That last one has really gotten my attention lately. I love seeing the figure-8's and all the hive activity. It makes me breathe a sigh of relief that those hives made it through winter BUT also gives me some anxiety that it's time to prepare for spring splits before we get to swarming season. Ah, one of the many stresses of this crazy hobby...

Preparation is your best strategy for anxiety relief. We should always be thinking one season ahead of the calendar, so that means it's time to get ready for that first nectar flow. Here are some suggestions:

- Decide if you need to feed weaker colonies or combine any "duds".
- Inspect your honey supers. Do you have enough? Any evidence of wax moths?
- Will you do any varroa treatments before putting on honey supers?
- Determine equipment needs: Did you lose a hive tool (or two) in the fall that needs to be replaced? How's that bee suit holding up? Are you going to experiment with something new?

Spring is also a great time to evaluate your beekeeping goals for the coming year to help determine your next steps. Personally, I'm going for honey production and last year's yield was much lower than expected so I'm adjusting my practices accordingly. I've talked with other folks who don't want to expand their apiary, so that changes their approach. In that case it may be good to make splits and build up some nucs to sell as a way to keep the healthy hive populations in check and lower the risk of swarming. Do you want more bees and more hives? Make sure they have the resources to grow.

I am currently in the process of lining up speakers for our monthly meetings and I'm excited with the prospects. The April speaker is Michelle Huskins who I met at this year's Tri-County Beekeepers Association Spring Workshop where she led a series of courses for beginner beekeepers. Michelle has an apiary in Uniontown (near Akron) and runs her own beekeeping business, and I look forward to her talk.

Happy Beekeeping!

Jeff

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.

MVBA Meeting Minutes March 7, 2023

By Donna Meade

Meeting attended by 24 people in person. Zoom was not available at this meeting.

Three new members/families joined.

Current year dues were collected from several members.

Opening announcements by Fran Davidson, Vice President. Spoke about the current condition of hives coming into Spring and what is in bloom now. Announcement of the next Beginning Beekeeping Class presented by the Davidsons March 30th and April 1st . Beginning Beekeeping Workshop | National Trail Parks & Recreation District (ntprd.org)

She shared a local resource for bee packages - Steve Johnson at www.olddrone.net

Sign up sheets were passed around for the swarm list, to be published on our website Swarm Removal List – Miami Valley Beekeepers Association (ohiostatebeekeepers.org) and will be distributed to over 20 local agencies in the Spring. Only current paid members are eligible to be on this list. List will be updated April 1, 2023 and unpaid members will be removed.



Also sign up sheets were available to request or volunteer as a mentor.

Members were given the opportunity to sign up to have their business contact information added to the MVBA website for the sale of honey, queens, nucs, equipment, and all things bee related. If you missed it, email the club to be added to the list at MiamiValleyBA@gmail.com. Provide the name of your name, business name, contact information and product you provide.

Program – Top 10 Beekeeping Myths, video by Kamon Reynolds and discussion followed.

TOP 10 Beekeeping MYTHS!!! - YouTube

Members shared their experiences with Queen excluders and if they use them.

There were questions and open dialog on when and how to do splits and winter and spring feeding practices.

Tim Reuber shared his favorite tool for catching swarms, which is a collapsible laundry basket with a zippered top.



Tom Davidson showed his magnetic belt which is handy to keep track of your hive tool and his favorite gadgets for scraping frames.

By starting our meeting 30 minutes earlier this year, we have ample time to socialize, enjoy snacks and learn from other beekeepers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Checking Account		Total Holdings	Cash On Hand	
Beginning Balance Checking Acct March 2022	\$ 5,791.20	\$ 5,876.20	\$ 85.00	Beginning Balance March 2022
Income				Income during Meeting
Member dues	\$ 60.00		\$ 240.00	
	\$ -			
Total Income	\$ 60.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 240.00	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Expenses				Expenses
Check 1459 Speaker Fee	\$ (170.00)		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ (170.00)		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ (170.00)		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance March 15 2022	\$ 5,681.20		\$ 325.00	Ending Cash Balance March 15 2022
Monthly total Net change		\$ 130.00		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 5,876.20		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 6,006.20		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
Total Holdings 15 March 2023 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 6,006.20		



www.ohionativeplantmonth.org

A website dedicated to Native Plants in Ohio.

A few resources they offer:

Where Can I Buy Ohio Native Plants and Support Ohio Growers?

Why are Native Plants Important?

Learn more about planting a Garden to feed pollinators and wildlife



Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Celadine Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), Blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*), and Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

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.



Our Official Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/miamivalleybeekeepers>



Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

Nectar: Mustards

Pollen: Poplars, Willows, Oak, Cedar, Junipers

Pollen and Nectar: Apple Trees, Chickweed, Hackberry Trees, Dandelion, Redbud Trees

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>

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*)



Aullwood's 19th Native Plant Sale is coming!

In Person Only

9 AM - 4 PM • Friday & Saturday, April 28 & 29

Charity A. Krueger Farm Discovery Center
9101 Frederick Pike, Dayton OH 45414

More than 100 species and includes many new offerings this year! Spring ephemerals such as Virginia Bluebells, Giant White Trillium, Squirrel Corn and Twinleaf and more will also be available at this year's sale.

To see exact plant offerings, please watch for their online catalog available for download soon at aullwood.audubon.org/special-event/native-plant-sale-2023

Each plant's catalog description will include soil and light requirements, colorful photos, and ways in which the plant supports pollinators and native wildlife.

Need help deciding which plants will attract the most birds and wildlife to your garden? Check Audubon's Plants for Birds database at

<https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds> for assistance!



The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

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
- Renew your subscription to Bee Culture and American Bee Journal

May

- Monitor colonies for queen cells
- Control swarming
- Add more supers as needed (oversuper)
- Place queen excluder below shallow super on colonies for comb honey
- Install packages on foundation
- Split strong colonies
- Capture swarms
- Cull and replace defective combs with full sheets of foundation
- Begin implementing an IPM program for the control of mites
- Add room for bees, either by honey supers, or deeps. Remember the



7/10 rule: when they have filled 7 of the 10 frames, its time to add space!

Remember to register your hives:

https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/forms/plnt_4201-002



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"