

May 2023



**The Miami Valley
Beekeepers Association
Newsletter**

Our Official Facebook Page:

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

In-person Speaker

Jeannie Saum
(from Beepothecary)

Topic

Propolis: The Gold in the Hive

In-depth coverage of the medicinal and health benefits of propolis with cited research and personal examples; how to collect, clean, store and use; how to make propolis oil and tincture; its use in other value-added products; and the laws governing its production and sale

Zoom link provided via email

Next Meeting:

May 1, 2023 (Monday)

6:30 PM at the

Tipp City Public Library

or Zoom

Do you mark your queens?

If you want to start a lively discussion among beekeepers, this is just one of many go-to questions. For some real fun, just throw this out there and then sit back and watch the free entertainment. It's a hotly-debated topic for a reason: there are pros and cons, and everyone has their own experience.



Pros

- Makes it easier to spot the queen
- Strong indicator of queen age
- Can tell if the queen has been superseded
- A marked queen in a swarm can help identify if she came from your apiary (or your neighbor's)

Cons

- Can injure (or kill) the queen during the marking process
- How often do you really need to spot the queen?
- The marking can come off
- Need to keep the right colors on hand

Having marked queens was great for me and my son during our first year of beekeeping. We always got excited seeing that little spot of color during hive inspections. (I still get a rush when I see her!) I started marking my queens in my second year until I flooded one of them with white paint from a paint pen. I thought I killed her, but she was tough and managed to carry on, despite her entire thorax and part of a wing having paint on it. I'm not sure how well she could fly, but it did not affect her egg laying, thankfully! Since then I have not marked my queens since I can usually spot them during inspections, but I definitely see the benefits of it.

I would love to hear your opinion and experience of marking (or not) your queens.

Happy Beekeeping!

Jeff



<i>Color Marking Codes</i>			
Abbreviation & Mnemonic	Color	Years Ending in:	Example:
W ("will")	White	1 or 6	2021
Y ("you")	Yellow	2 or 7	2022
R ("raise")	Red	3 or 8	2018
G ("good")	Green	4 or 9	2019
B ("bees")	Blue	5 or 0	2020

MVBA Meeting Minutes: April 3, 2023

by Donna Meade

Meeting attended by 25 in person and one on Zoom.

Opening announcements by Jeff Adler, MVBA President.

Membership renewal reminder for MVBA and OSBA.

Asked members to update their emails if they are not receiving the newsletter. Updates can be sent to miamivalleyba@gmail.com.

If you have suggestions for speakers or topics for the monthly meetings, please send to Jeff at the above email.

Update provided on longtime member and past MVBA board member Patrick Reese.

4-H Scholarship update.

The current year's Board was introduced for new members.

Several new members were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and share where they are in their beekeeping journey.

One new member requested a mentor and Tom Davidson volunteered.

Reminder that honey extractor and oxalic acid vaporizer are available to members for use.

Sign-up sheets for other member benefits (e.g. swarm list, online vendor exposure) on our website.



You have 10 days to register a new apiary and existing apiaries should have registration renewed by now with the Dept of Agriculture. Cost is \$5 a year per apiary location.

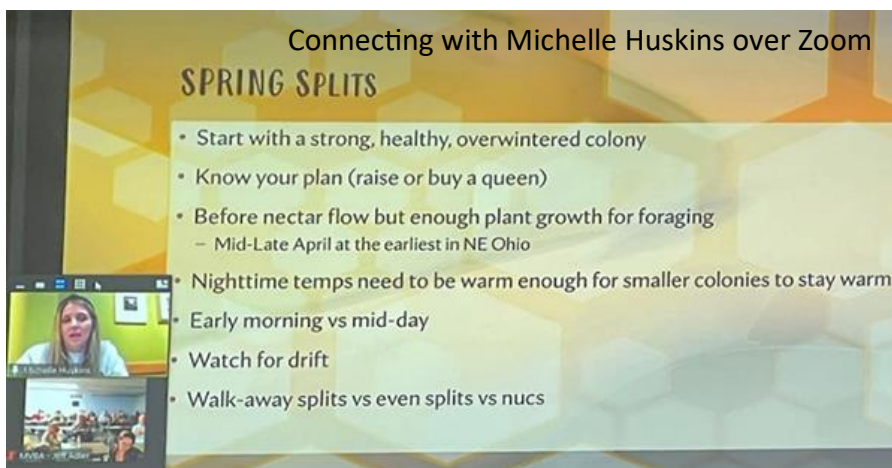
What should you be doing in your apiary now (see page 5).

Guest Speaker Michelle Huskins (Huskins Honey):
Spring Splits and Running a Bee Business

Michelle gave a very informative and timely presentation about why we split hives, whether or not to split, when and how, the steps of splitting a hive and the desired configuration of the split.

She shared the step-by-step requirements to starting your own business with bee products.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



A note from the Treasurer

Brian Willis

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct April 2022	\$ 5,681.20	\$ 6,006.20	\$ 325.00	Beginning Balance April 2022
Income				Income during Meeting
Member dues	\$ -		\$ 260.00	Member Dues
	\$ -			
Total for Deposit	\$ -		\$ 260.00	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Total Income		\$ 260.00		
Expenses				0
Check #1461 speaker fee Michelle Huskins	\$ (100.00)		\$ -	
Last month's report was check #1459 was for OSBA dues not speaker fee	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ (100.00)		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ (100.00)		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance April 15 2022	\$ 5,581.20		\$ 585.00	Ending Cash Balance April 15 2022
Monthly total Net change		\$ 160.00		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 6,006.20		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 6,166.20		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
A Total Holdings 15 April 2023 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 6,166.20		



Ohio State Beekeepers Association > Live Webinar Training

Live Webinar Training

Sunday, May 28 TBD



Live Webinar Training is now hosted on the 4th Sunday of each month at 7:00 pm and is FREE to attend. Recordings are only available to paid members of OSBA. We are using Zoom which allows us up to 500 available spots per presentation.

<https://ohiostatebeekeepers.org/live-webinar-training/>

The Basic Buzz in the Apiary

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, it's time to add space!

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



Picture by Jeff Adler

What is blooming in your area?

Nectar: Mustards

Pollen: Poplars, Willows, Oak, Cedar, Junipers

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

<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*)



Harbinger-of-Spring



Sharp-lobed Hepatica



Skunk Cabbage



Snow Trillium



Spring Beauty




White Trout-lily

2023 Wildflower Bloom Report

The Ohio Wildflower Bloom Report is updated weekly from March to the middle of May. ODNR encourages people to take spring wildflower photos and upload them to social media using the hashtag #OhioWildflowers. You can follow [@OhioDNAP](#) and [@OhioDNR](#) on Instagram, [@OhioFindItHere](#) and [@OhioDNR](#) on Twitter, and the [OhioDNAP](#) on Facebook. Find individual wildflower pages at [Ohiodnr.gov](#). You can also use their handy spring wildflower checklist to track what you're seeing in the field.

Spring Wildflower Report and Checklist:
<https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/see-the-sights/wildflowers>



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OHIO NATIVE SPRING WILDFLOWER CHECKLIST

Ohio is home to over 1,800 native species of plants. This includes hundreds of spring wildflowers that bloom from March to May every year. This checklist highlights our common forest dwelling wildflowers and a number of rare and grassland species, too. Please enjoy using this checklist while out exploring any natural area in Ohio. To find more information on Ohio's wildflowers visit [ohiodnr.gov](#).



Get Out Into Nature!!! Some opportunities you might enjoy:

Montgomery County: 2023 MetroParks Trails Challenge

Explore a variety of trails — on your own schedule — for a chance to win prizes. Trail logs are automatically submitted in the MetroParks [mobile app](#). You can also [Download a printable trails log](#).

Are you ready to take on new trails? The MetroParks Trails Challenge is packed with hiking, walking, cycling, paddling, mountain biking and horseback riding adventures.

- The 2023 challenge runs Feb. 1 through Oct. 31.
- 28 trails, selected to allow participants to customize their adventures and work up to more challenging trails.

Trails vary in length from 0.5 to 4 miles so there are many opportunities to invite family – including younger ones – on your outings.

Whether you check off just one or every trail, you'll have a chance to snag cool prizes. You'll be entered to win a \$100 gift card to a local outdoor retailer of your choosing for each trail you complete. Complete all 28 trails and get 28 chances to win.

- Everyone who completes at least 18 trails will receive a **MetroParks Trails Challenge sticker**. Additionally, 100 people who complete at least 18 trails will be selected at random to receive a **2023 Trails Challenge T-shirt**.
- Youth ages 14 and younger who complete just one trail will be entered to win a **Kid's Adventure Pack**, which includes cool outdoor gear. Youth will receive one entry for each trail they complete.

To enter to win, you must submit your trails log by Monday, Oct. 31.

To Register: <https://www.metroparks.org/metroparks-trails-challenge/>



Miami County: 2023 Outside Everyday Challenge

The Miami County Park District is excited to challenge you and your family to go OUTSIDE EVERYDAY and spend 1000 hours outside! Please REGISTER EACH PARTICIPATING FAMILY MEMBER, including adults and siblings.

By registering for this year-long event you will:

- have access to our Facebook group to find support and encouragement
- have access to an hour tracker sheet to track your time outside. Watch your time build from day to day, week to week, and month to month
- weekly ideas for outdoor activities and nature-themed books as part of our Nature Quest program
- monthly bingo sheets to help get you outside
- best of all, an array of monthly drawings, and prizes to reward you and keep you motivated to be outside

Already part of the National 1000 hour challenge? Great! You can use the hours that you have already accumulated towards the MCPD Outside Everyday Challenge!

Sign up today and receive the greatest reward of time spent together and a happier, healthier family! Be sure to register EACH family member separately to be eligible for prizes and incentives!

Note:

- Be sure to register each participating family member separately.
- Open to both Miami County residents and non-county residents.
- Must be registered to be included in prize drawings.

Register at:

<https://miamicountyparks.recdesk.com/Community/Member/Login>



Miami County

<https://miamicountyparks.recdesk.com/Community/Home>

Native Plant Workshop-
May 27th from 9-10 am at Heritage
Hall at Lost Creek Reserve

We are excited to partner with Ruth Bowell (The Milkweed Patch), Kara Meynard (Deeply Rooted Landscapes) & Ron Corbit (Native Ohio Plants LLC) to host our 3rd annual native plant workshop followed by a native plant sale. Come learn about our native plants, how to landscape with them and why planting native is so important to conservation efforts today!

The workshop registration fee comes with one free native plant. After the workshop, the native plant sale will be open to purchase additional plants.

Notes:

- Advanced online registration required.
- Registration fee is \$5.00/Miami County resident \$10.00/non resident.
- Credit card transactions incur a \$2.25 service fee.

Native Plant Sale– May 27th from 10 am-2 pm

We are excited to announce our 3rd annual native plant sale! Join us at Lost Creek to purchase Ohio native plants.

Shoppers will have the opportunity to speak with the experts from our knowledgeable vendors:

Deeply Rooted Landscapes

<https://www.deeplyrootedlandscapes.com/>

Native Ohio Plants LLC

<http://nativeohioplants.com/>

The Milkweed Patch

www.themilkweedpatch.com

Down Nature's Path LLC

<https://www.dnpnatives.com/>

Piqua Birds & the Bees Native Plants

<https://www.thebirdsandthebees.garden>

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1v-dO3L_OY2YzRSRlmL28kc9HTJL7mOe4PUVLgQ1Wmjw

If you want to increase the biodiversity in your back yard, buying native plants will do just that, so stop on by to purchase some natives.

