

June 2023



The Miami Valley Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Our Official Facebook Page:

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

**The June meeting is CANCELLED
due to a library event.**

**BUT, our club has the opportunity to
give back to the library by hosting a
table at their library summer program
kickoff that happens at the same time
as our cancelled June 5 meeting.**

**Feel free to enjoy all of the festivities
and swing by our table!!**

Next Meeting:

July 10, 2023 (Mon)

6:30 PM at the

Tipp City Public Library

or Zoom

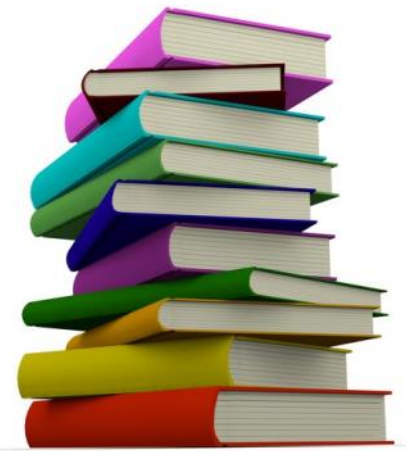


Tipp City Public **LIBRARY** minds bloom downtown

SUMMER LIBRARY KICK-OFF EVENT - JUNE 5, 6:30-8:00 PM

You're invited to a Parking Lot Party! Bring the whole family to our Summer Kick-Off Bash in our library parking lot. There will also be a Touch-a-Truck event on 3rd Street between Main and Walnut Streets.

Check-out the Miami County Storybook Walk in front of the library and earn a gemstone. Browse the Used Book Sale in the alley to pick up a book to read this summer in our Beanstack Reading Challenge.



Sign-up for the Beanstack Reading Challenge and staff will help you learn how to log your reading and earn prizes.

There will also be community organizations sponsoring games and give-aways for kids where parents can learn about special events, lessons, and camps that are going on in the Tipp City area.



Thanks to the following sponsors for making this event possible: RegalRexnord, Greenville Federal and the Friends of the Library.

And Kona Ice will be here giving out free ice cones!

“It’s none of your beeswax.” Actually, it is! MVBA President — Jeff Adler

This info will be a reminder for some but hopefully you find it useful.

If your goal is to get drawn comb, one approach is to use a newly-caught swarm. When a swarm leaves the hive, they bring with them a variety of resources for the journey and to "set up shop" in a new location. This mainly includes nectar but it's also the age of the bees in the swarm: young worker bees are the makers of beeswax. Once they select a new home, one of the first priorities is building comb since it's needed for all aspects of their survival.

I've been amazed at how fast a swarm can build out fresh comb - we're talking a matter of days! Use this to your advantage when you catch a swarm: along with a few frames of drawn comb to entice the swarm to stay, add in frames with foundation (or no foundation) and watch how quickly you'll get newly-drawn frames. If you want to help with the process, provide 1:1 sugar syrup since wax-making takes a fair amount of energy (aka honey). In fact, honeybees must consume 6-8 pounds of honey to create 1 pound of beeswax. It's a precious resource!

Keep notes on which of your colonies has a lot of brood because those may be your best source of wax production. Comb building happens in the spring and early summer when nectar is plentiful. It tapers off in the hot summer months and pretty much stops in the fall. So plan ahead now if you want/need drawn comb. And make sure you care for your drawn comb frames because they are extremely valuable!

For those interested in some honeycomb math facts, here you go:

- Engineers will confirm that a hexagonal structure provides the maximum strength. Although the wax cell walls are only about 0.05mm thick, each cell can support 25 times its own weight.
- A honeycomb cell has an hexagonal cross-section but the bottom of the cell consists of 3 equal rhombi. Considering this three dimensional shape, the Hungarian mathematician Fejes Tóth has formulated the "isoperimetric problem for honeycombs" to determine what dimensions would actually yield the "optimal design". Although a definitive solution has not been reached, it has been shown that the bees' design is close to but not quite the optimal one.
- Honeycomb cells angle upwards to prevent the contents from spilling out. The angle is variable from hive to hive, but measurements range from 9-14°.
- Since the comb is angled upwards, it is best to brush your bees in an upwards motion to prevent injuring their legs. Flick the brush from the bottom of the frame to remove them and it's easier than using a downwards motion.

Happy Beekeeping!

P.S. Does anyone else just love the smell of beeswax? Do you sniff the frames when you get a chance? I doubt it's just me...

Source of wax facts: <http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artsep98/hexagon.html>

Source of comb angle and brushing facts: <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/how-much-do-honeycomb-cells-tilt>

MVBA Meeting Minutes: May 1, 2023

by Erica Adler

Meeting started at 6:40 PM

Welcome/Information/Upcoming opportunities from President:

- OSBA Live Webinars: none scheduled but check the website for future opportunities.
- Penn State Beekeeping around the World covered Argentina and Switzerland back in April. Recordings are on their website.
- Apiary location opportunities (Stillwater River, near Wegerzyn Metropark)

Does anyone keep an apiary on someone else's property? Discussion followed.

Native plant sales are happening now

Treasurer's Report by Brian

Reminder that club dues are \$20 per family.

OSBA membership

You should have received the club newsletter via email. If not, please contact Donna to make sure we have the correct email address.

Swarm list - any calls?

Swarm trap info

Epinephrine: Has anyone needed to use an epi-pen? Do you have one if you'd need one? Do you know how to use one? Discussion followed.

What should you be doing in your apiary now? (Basic Buzz items)

Swarm prevention / management / captures (swarm traps)

What are signs that your bees may swarm? Charged queen cells, capped queen cells

Splits: if you find a capped queen cell, mimic a swarm (find & move the existing queen)

Plan your garden & start planting soon (watch for Native Plant sales)

What are folks seeing? Discussion followed.

Tonight's speaker was Jeannie Saum from Beepothecary.

Jeannie is a retired educator of 36 years, a 13-year beekeeper, and co-owner of Beepothecary, a



small business that produces dietary supplements, skincare, and shaving products made with propolis and other beehive resources. Jeannie enjoys reading research, writing, and speaking about the benefits of bee resources and their value-added products.

Jeannie shared about Propolis and she brought a variety of products on the subject.

Next meeting: ~~June 5~~ (Mon), 6:30 PM

UPDATED DATE: July 10

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM



The Basic Buzz in the Apiary



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

July

- Remove comb honey supers when properly capped.
- Check for queen cells, especially in colonies used for queen rearing.
- Add sufficient super space (undersuper).
- Remove and extract early season honey crop.
- Freeze comb honey to prevent wax moth damage

A note from the Treasurer

Brian Willis

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct May 2022	\$ 5,581.20	\$ 6,166.20	\$ 585.00	Beginning Balance May 2022
Income				Income during Meeting
Member dues	\$ -		\$ 20.00	Member Dues
	\$ -			
	\$ -			
Total Income	Total for Deposit \$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Expenses				0
Zoom Membership	\$ (161.14)		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ (161.14)		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ (161.14)		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ 545.00	\$ -	\$ (545.00)	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance May 15 2022	\$ 5,965.06		\$ 60.00	Ending Cash Balance May 15 2022
Monthly total Net change		\$ (141.14)		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 6,166.20		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 6,025.06		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
BA Total Holdings 15 May 2023 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 6,025.06		

What's Blooming?

Pollen Sources: Walnut

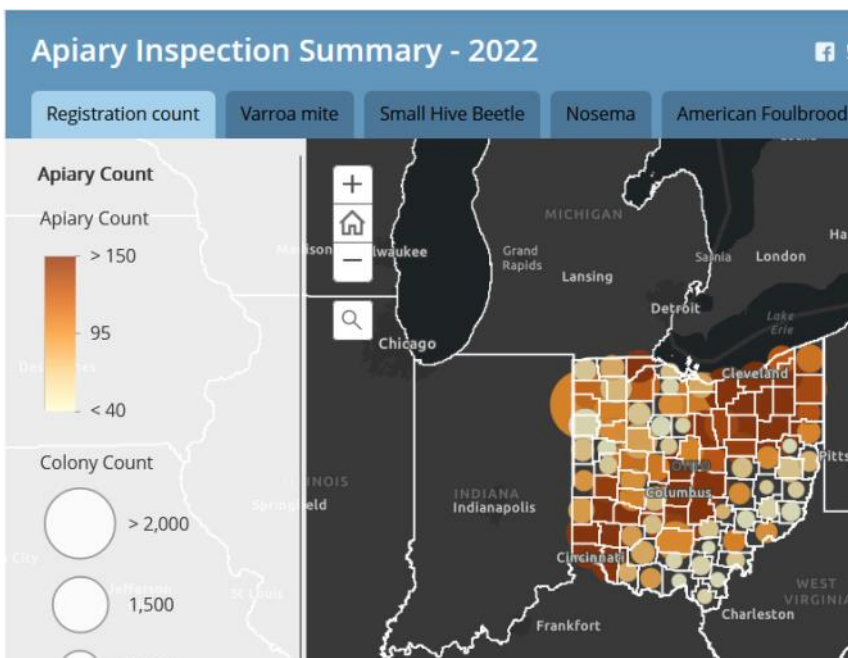
Nectar: Ground-ivy, Sour Gum Tree, Buckthorns, Viburnums, Locust Trees, Tulip Poplar, Common Privet, Basswood, Linden, Candytuft, Lambs Ear, Vetch

Nectar and Pollen: Serviceberry, Shadbush, Hawthorns, Blackberries, Chives, Cotoneaster, Leopard's Bane, Redbud, Strawberry, White Sweet Clover

What is an Apiary Inspection?

Apart from the State Apiarist, apiaries in Ohio are monitored by county inspectors. These inspectors are appointed and paid by a county, however they submit their inspection reports to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. County appointed inspectors are a crucial component of the current program by providing hands-on interaction with beekeepers through the inspection process. County Apiary Inspectors increase the likelihood that the bees required for pollination are disease and pest free. Colonies may be inspected to detect serious bee diseases or Africanized honey bees in the state and to help prevent the spread of serious diseases and pests.

Inspection certificates are required for any person rearing queen bees or packaged bees before they can be sold or gifted. Permits are required of anyone



The current inspection summary is available at:
<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program/inspection/inspection-summary>

For more information

Barbara Bloetscher, State Apiarist

Apiary Program

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