

May 2024



**The Miami Valley
Beekeepers Association
Newsletter**

May Speaker

Mike Mullen

Education Specialist

***Montgomery County Soil & Water
Conservation District***

Topic

Planting for Pollinators

Zoom link provided in email

Next Meeting:

May 6 (Mon)

6:30 PM at the

Tipp City Public Library

or Zoom

Editor: Erica Adler

It's Not a Mistake, It's an "Opportunity for Learning"

The last full week of April kicked off my apiary's swarm season. Over the span of a week I witnessed 5 swarms, 4 of which I was able to catch. I'm experienced with catching swarms, but I'm far from an expert. Here are some of my most recent mistakes, provided here to hopefully prevent you (and myself) from repeating them.



- Swarms have no predictable time table. Some will hang out for hours or days, others only seem to stop for a quick rest. When possible, catch them ASAP or you may regret it. My strangest swarm landed high in a tree. An hour later, after I finally set up a ladder and gathered my supplies, it started to dissipate as soon as I started up the first ladder rung and it landed back on the hive box from which it came.
- Anticipate anything/everything you might need. After the aforementioned swarm went back to its original "home", I noticed a cluster of bees in the grass about 10' in front of the hive. The queen can usually be found in these small clusters, typically injured or even getting balled by the colony, but strange behavior from a swarm. On closer inspection I found the seemingly healthy queen and in my haste I scooped her and some attendants into my hand. Now in a panic, I tried to find a queen clip as I rushed around my apiary but all of the bees, queen included, flew off before I found it. Lesson learned: leave the queen in the grass and find the clip before attempting to capture her. Even better, now I keep a queen clip in my bee suit in case I spot a queen and need to contain her.
- Prepare your equipment before you need it. While gathering equipment to capture my swarms I realized I had not finished installing foundation in deep frames. Wiring up foundation while an active swarm is happening is not the ideal time for this activity. Being pro-active is always better and much less stressful than being re-active.
- Apiary management **should** help prevent swarming. A foot injury prevented me from doing spring apiary management and now I'm paying the price. I went into winter with strong hives and the plan to make spring splits, but that did not happen. At the same time, accept that despite all of your efforts, sometimes they will still swarm and that's not necessarily a bad thing: it could be an indication of a healthy hive.
- Keep good notes. Hive inspections start to run together once you have more than two hives. I keep a small notebook and two pieces of chalk: blue for brood and brown for honey. I will mark frames accordingly and then chalk the totals on each box during an inspection. After closing up that hive I record the totals in my notebook. It's helpful to see past data. In fact, my notes show that my first swarm of 2023 was on May 6, so this year is almost 3 weeks earlier than that which tracks with bloom times. Come up with a system that works for you and feel free to share with others!



What are your "best mistakes" that provided opportunities for learning? I'd love to hear them.

Happy Beekeeping!!

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Jeff Adler, MVBA President.

He shared a 3D printed version of a varroa mite and mini hive created by member Dave Collins. It was printed to scale showing what size these mites would be on a human body.

Jeff shared that he attended a talk by Dr. Robyn Underwood from Penn State Extension Office about the spotted lantern fly at the North American Honeybee Expo. The problem for beekeepers is that the lantern flies surround tree trunks, sucking all the sugar syrup out of trees. Honeybees are attracted to the excrement because it is sugary. They bring that back to the hive and you end up with honey created from that excrement. He brought Spotted Lanternfly Honeydew honey straws to share with everyone brave enough to try it. No one said they hated it, but it definitely had a different taste than clover honey. You can learn more in this podcast with Dr. Underwood. (664) The Spotted Lantern Fly and Bad Honey with Dr. Robyn Underwood (S5, E50) - YouTube

Jeff recapped what you should be doing in your apiaries this month. This was also covered in the last newsletter.

Winter storage of frames was discussed and how to protect them against wax moths. Paramoth is a product several members use.

Question about when to reverse brood boxes if you choose to do so. General opinion was mid-April, and it's a personal preference whether to adopt this practice. Be careful not to split the brood when doing so!

As always, we had members bring wonderful snacks to share. It's very much appreciated.



Guest Speaker Mandy Duncan, Bluebird Acres Apiary in New Carlisle spoke about Gardening for Pollinators. She has 40 acres and provides a great variety of plants for her bees and other pollinators, and is able to harvest honey 3 times a year – Spring, Summer and Fall!

In the Spring her bees are foraging Black Locust, Autumn Olive and Honeysuckle. In the Summer their sources are Clover, Milkweed, Strawflower, Anise Hyssop (Blue Fortune), Bee Balm, Coneflowers, Wild Senna, Zinnias, Dill, Golden Alexander and Borage. A few of the trees they benefit from are Red Bud and Catalpa.

Great Fall food sources are Asters and Goldenrod. Suggested Honeysuckle replacement plants are Spicebush, Arrow Viburnum or Witch Hazel.

She prepares in Winter for Spring planting by laying down cardboard, then wood chips, then compost. When Spring arrives, the cardboard is soft enough to cut through to plant.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct April 2024	\$ 5,424.18	\$ 5,794.18	\$ 370.00	Beginning Balance April 2024
Income				Income during Meeting
	\$ -		\$ 200.00	Member dues
Paypal Transfer	\$ 56.43			
	\$ -			
Total Income	Total for Deposit \$ 56.43	\$ 256.43	\$ 200.00	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Expenses				
Zoom Fees Check 1470	\$ (171.89)		\$ -	
OSBA Fee Check 1469	\$ (220.00)		\$ -	
Speaker Fee Check 1472	\$ (75.00)			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ (466.89)		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ (466.89)		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ 490.00	\$ -	\$ (490.00)	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance April 15 2024	\$ 5,503.72		\$ 80.00	Ending Cash Balance April 15 2024
Monthly total Net change		\$ (210.46)		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 5,794.18		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 5,583.72		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
BA Total Holdings 15 April 2024 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 5,583.72		



Biodiversity Begins at Home

Saturday, June 15 @ Brukner Nature Center

Native Plant Workshop

9:00am – 10:00am (\$20/person due by June 14)

Vendors & Events

10:00am – 3:00pm (Free for everyone!)

Native plants are beautiful, adapted to our soils and climate, and valued for their role in the ecosystem.

- REGISTER for the Native Plant Workshop, led by Deeply Rooted Landscapes garden designer, Courtney Denning. Workshop will focus on attracting birds through gardening with native plants. **Call 937-698-6493 or email info@bruknernaturecenter.com by Friday, June 14 to register.**
- MEET local plant vendors who will have a variety of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers for sale!
- TAKE a selfie with our new monarch butterfly sculpture!
- ENJOY a self-guided hike!
- MEET our wildlife ambassadors and discover their connection to native plants!
- SHOP local artisans to further enhance your landscape with one-of-a-kind pieces of art!

Get Out Into Nature!!! Opportunities you might enjoy:

Montgomery County: 2024 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.

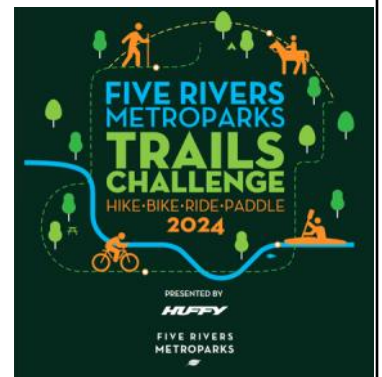
- The 2024 challenge runs Feb. 1 through Oct. 31.
- 28 trails, selected to allow participants to customize their adventures and work up to more challenging trails.

Trails vary in length from 0.5 to 6 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 2024 Trails Challenge T-shirt.
- To enter to win, you must submit your trails log by Oct. 31.
- To Register: <https://www.metroparks.org/metroparks-trails-challenge/>



Miami County: 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>

Colors used to mark queens

<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



FOUR LEAF
HONEY FARM

BEEKEEPING CLASSES

We offer beekeeping classes each spring for beginner and advanced beekeepers. Follow us on Facebook to find out when the next course is offered.

Next class is May 4, 9 AM to 1 PM

For anyone looking to get more knowledge.

Sign up has been extended to Wednesday (May 1)

Cost is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple

May 11 is a free Beekeeping seminar from 9 AM to about 3 PM, and also nuc pickup day

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/>





Beeswax Facts

<http://www.honeystonecandles.com/beeswaxfacts.htm>

All bees make wax in epidermal glands to cover their outer layer of cuticle to prevent water loss.

Beeswax softens at 90 deg F (32 C) and melts between 143 and 151 deg. F (62-66 C). The flashpoint (temperature at which beeswax flares up and burns fiercely) is 490-525 deg F (254-274 C)

Beeswax is very stable. Samples thousands of years old are nearly identical with new wax.

Beeswax does not oxidize and it is not affected by mildew.

Beeswax is composed of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, combined into about 300 different long chain molecules.

The aroma of beeswax is created by 48 hydrocarbon compounds.

Of 100 volatile constituents in beeswax, only 41 have been identified.

Although beeswax has been traded for thousands of years, there are no formal grades or standards for the product in the USA or anywhere else.

When the bees make one pound of beeswax into comb, it will hold 22 pounds of honey.

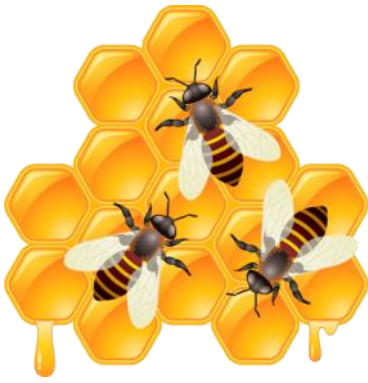
About one pound of cappings beeswax is produced for every 54 pounds of extracted honey.

Young worker bees secrete pure white droplets of wax called "scales." One pound of beeswax contains approximately 800,000 scales.

Bees must consume eight to ten pounds of honey to produce one pound of beeswax.

The oldest known notebooks used sheets of beeswax for pages. Recovered from ancient Mediterranean shipwrecks, stylus marks pressed in the wax pages can still be read after centuries on the sea floor.





Honey Bee Biology

R W D G H V E G V O D S S W G Y P D D A N N R C W C E E C H
 O U A O E L E I C N I T G C F F L E P E O U A L A O N A U P
 B D U G I U B E A M E N I T I H C L L D I R T U X M O N T M
 B S K A G R L L P K L A R V A E O A E C T S C S G P M N I Y
 E J M N A L G L S E L B I D N A M N Z J A B E T L O O E C L
 R E O T I M E A S I L O P O R P O G E M L R N E A U R T L O
 F T I W O H B D C F O R A G E R Q N U Y U A I R N N E N E M
 N O Z N E N A S A N O V G L A N D Y V A C E Y P D D H A B E
 N Y E A E B E E S N C O R B I C U L U M R O D O S E P N E A
 E V R L D A W L C E C E P I D E R M I S I D M O R Y U E E H
 G T L O H O N O T E L E K S O X E G W B C U G B P E V E B S
 G O M C R L L I H D H C F R E G N I T S N N E L L O P U R G
 P E A K C O U T N E D F S G A N G L I A E D R O N E R Q E N
 N R E W N C A E M R A W S U P U L L A B P T H O R A X P A I
 T R A Y N J C P L N C D C F M C X E T O O F E E P U P A D W

ABDOMEN
 BEEBREAD
 COLONY
 CUTICLE
 EPIDERMIS
 FORAGER
 HAEMOLYMPH
 HOUSE
 MANDIBLES
 NECTAR
 OPENCIRCULATION
 POLLEN
 PROPOLIS
 ROBBER
 SPIRACLE
 THORAX
 VENOMGLAND
 WAXGLANDS

ANTENNAE
 CHITIN
 COMPOUNDEYE
 DRONE
 EXOSKELETON
 GANGLIA
 HEAD
 LARVAE
 MUSCLES
 NURSE
 PETIOLE
 POLLENBASKETS
 PUPA
 ROYALJELLY
 STINGER
 TONGUE
 VIBRATION
 WINGS

BALLUP
 CLUSTER
 CORBICULUM
 EGG
 FEMALE
 GUARD
 HONEYCOMB
 MALE
 NASANOVGLAND
 OCELLI
 PHEROMONE
 PROPODEUM
 QUEEN
 SIMPLEHEART
 SWARM
 TRACHAE
 WAGGLEDANCE
 WORKER

