

June 2024



**The Miami Valley
Beekeepers Association
Newsletter**

June Speaker

Dave Collins

MVBA Board Member

Topic

**Techniques for Successful
Cut-outs and Trap-Outs**

Zoom link provided in email

***NOTE: The library is holding
their Summer Reading Program
kickoff at the same time, so the
rear parking lot will be closed
and it will be quite busy.***

Next Meeting:

June 3 (Mon)

6:30 PM at the

Tipp City Public Library

or Zoom

Editor: Erica Adler



Tipp City Public
LIBRARY
minds bloom downtown

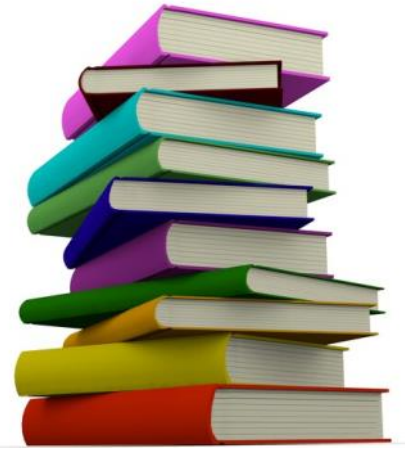
Summer Reading Kickoff

Monday, June 3, 6:30-8 PM

You're invited to a Parking Lot Party! Bring the whole family to our Summer Kick-Off Bash in our library parking lot.

Ranger Vic will make balloon animals, and we will have carnival-type games as well as face painting, goats to pet, a storybook walk with Sweetgum Stephani from the Miami County Park District, and free Kona Ice.

The first 100 families will receive a COSI water exploration science kit that includes one free admission coupon to COSI.



A pair of Dayton Dragons tickets for the Sunday, June 9th home game (1:05 start time) will be raffled as a children's prize.

Smoker Fuels: Smoke ‘em if you got ‘em

Beekeepers are a frugal bunch, spending money only on the necessities with some occasional splurges. Besides a hive tool, most every beekeeper has a smoker, so let’s talk about smoke and smoker fuel options.

It’s not entirely understood, but smoke in a beehive seems to accomplish two things: it masks the alarm pheromones released by guard bees and seems to serve as a warning that they may need to evacuate. Bees that have gorged on honey are less able to curve their abdomens into stinging position. Use smoke on your hands and hive tool (and any sting sites) to help minimize the defensive response.

Cool, billowy smoke is the goal here which takes practice and choosing the right fuels. You want to find natural, chemical-free sources with a preference to smoldering over burning. Good options include:

- Starter fuels: dry pine needles, commercial starter pellets, plain newspaper or packing paper
- Burlap
- Baling twine, jute
- Corrugated cardboard (chemical-free)
- Old unbleached, undyed cotton fabric (e.g. denim, old t-shirts), string
- Pine cones
- Wood chips (e.g. animal bedding), tree bark, dry twigs
- Punk wood, peat moss

You can also collect smoker fuel from items normally discarded such as toilet paper rolls, coffee cup sleeves, clothespins, egg cartons, chopsticks, toothpicks, paper straws (white), natural wine corks (not plastic), popsicle sticks, or even peanut shells. Dry leaves or grass can be used, but may burn fast and hot.

Fuels to avoid: anything containing chemicals, plastics, paint, rubber, preservatives, or dyes. These items could release toxic fumes when burned, causing injury or death to the bees, and are not healthy for a beekeeper to inhale. It is best to avoid dryer lint (contains plastics and synthetic fabrics), plywood (contains glues), and any paper or cardboard with colored inks.

For tips and techniques on starting your smoker and keeping it going, check out the links below.

Happy Beekeeping!!

Sources

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/smoker-fuels-are-as-varied-as-beekeepers>

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/how-to-smoke-bees-10-tips-for-best-results>

MVBA Meeting Minutes: May 6, 2024

Notes by Erica Adler

6:30 PM Jeff Adler brings the meeting to order.

Thanks to those who brought snacks. A newsletter recap– advertisements in the newsletter are a big perk to being a member of MVBA! That along with being on the swarm list. Family membership is only \$20.

Benjamin Keller from OSBA spoke. He talked about what they are looking for in honey judging. Forms are coming out.

Training and a vet list for those who can inspect (specifically for foul brood) on the website. April 11, there is an ODA training and pilot program for inspectors.

OSBA Fall Conference will be at Central State/ Wilberforce on Oct. 25 and 26 of this year.

Let Benjamin know if you are interested in helping at the Ohio State Fair. It is a 1/2 day of work and 1/2 day free to explore the fair.

OSBA has a swarm list– make sure to update if you are interested.

OSBA works with the Ohio legislature, talking to them and giving them information.

Jeff Adler: Brukner is having a BioDiversity Day (new date is June 22nd) He showed a ProNuc box which is great for catching swarms and transporting bees. Showed the Apisolis vaporizer and SimplKomb, which is like a Ross round.



Ed Devault shared about double screens

What should you be doing in your apiary now?

Swarming season is in full swing!

Swarms are great for comb building; use this to your advantage. Monitor colonies for swarm cells, could try splits or mimic a swarm, can cut out extra queen cells.

Add supers; some evidence the flow is on.

7/10 rule for when to add more space.

Remove bottom board inserts if get too hot, see bearding.

Do you need more equipment?

Monitor FB for swarms but this can be tricky; first comment is typically first to get.

Brian gave the Treasurers Report.

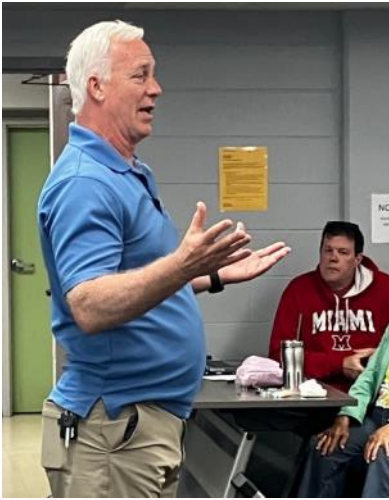
Fran brought a yellow jacket queen to share.

Tonight's speaker is Michael Mullen, currently the Education Specialist with the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District. Mike has dedicated most of his life to the field of Environmental Education. He spent 7 summers while in high school and college with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Youth Conservation Corps. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Natural Resources/ Agriculture Education. He spent 34 years at the MCJVS/ MVCTC teaching their Environmental Science/ Natural Resources program.

He shared that most Conservation Districts started after the Dust Bowl. Montgomery County's has been in existence for 75 years.

Michael presented on Planting for Bees.

If you want to know about the soil makeup at your address, go to the USDA Web Soil Surveying. Type in your address and it will tell you the makeup.



Bee Balm

Ribosome based, so spreads easily
Grows 10-48" tall and very aromatic



From the aster family

Joe-Pye Weed

Up to 7' tall with shallow roots



Hummingbirds love it

March Blazing Star

Aster family

Has bulbs you can plant



White Wild Indigo

From the south; reseeds very well– can grow from seeds

From the pea family so adds Nitrogen to the soil

Very strong once established and flower for a long time

2-4' in height



Wrinkle Leaf Goldenrod

(also rough leaf, rough stemmed... lots of options)

Not ragweed!!!

6' tall



Known families of nectar producers

- The members of the following plant families are commonly used in most bee gardens as a reliable producers of nectar.
 - Fabaceae (clovers, redbud, soybeans, locust)
 - Lamiaceae (mints, sage, bee balm, lavender)
 - Brassicaceae (turnips, broccoli, cannola)
 - Asteraceae (sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, echinacea)
 - Rosaceae (apples, peaches, crabapple, blackberry)
 - Boraginaceae (borage, tansy)

Wenger Lawn Nursery is a good place to buy natives.

Don't overlook the obvious

Clover (Trifolium spp.)

With over 300 types of "Trifolium" flowers to choose from, you are sure to find one suitable for most environments.

Buckwheat (Fagopyrum esculentum)

A great cover crop that worldwide makes the top list for honey.

Milkweed (Apocynaceae spp.) 55 species

Fabulous for all pollinators. Can be aggressive.



Purple Coneflower

An aggressive flower
1st of November you can reseed around the area
Loves moist soil
Cold stratification works

best to start from seed

Black-Eyed Susan

Will take over

Blooms all summer



Honey Bee Pollen Timing Chart

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vh3iSLHF3TI-BR8pWS8cu3hXd-HvhuYA/view>

Clemson University

<https://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/EasternBroadleaf.Oceanic.rx18.pdf>



SELECTING
PLANTS
FOR
POLLINATORS

<https://www.pheasantsforever.org/>

Pheasants and Quail Forever sell mix seed (one has grasses and one does not)

<https://www.pfhabitatstore.com/store/19698/OH/OH-NRCS-EQIP-420-Monarch-Pollinator-no-grass>

Link to [Ohio Seed Mixes](#)



Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District

Michael Mullen:
mullenm@mcohio.org

www.MontgomerySWCD.org

Website


Facebook


Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand
Beginning Balance Checking Acct May 2024	\$ 5,503.72	\$ 5,583.72	\$ 80.00	Beginning Balance May 2024
Income				Income during Meeting
				Member dues
Paypal Transfer	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -			
	\$ -			
Total for Deposit	\$ -		\$ -	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)
Total Income		\$ -		
Expenses				
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -		\$ -	
Speaker Fee Check 1473	\$ (75.00)			
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ (75.00)		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawals
Total Expenses		\$ (75.00)		
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents
Ending Checking Balance May 15 2024	\$ 5,428.72		\$ 80.00	Ending Cash Balance May 15 2024
Monthly total Net change		\$ (75.00)		
Previous month Net funds		\$ 5,583.72		
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 5,508.72		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances
BA Total Holdings 15 May 2024 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 5,508.72		

June Special

MVBA Members receive
10% off ALL Unassembled
Wood Ware Orders



Products

 Ohio Made Amish Wooden Ware
(Now Stocking 8 Frame Wood Ware)

 Raw Honey

 Beeswax Products

Services

 Swarm Recovery

 Live Bee Removal

 Beginner Beekeeping Classes

(937) 459-8124

merrielanehoney.com

112 Merrie Lane - PO Box 191 - Pittsburg, OH 45358

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



Fall Conference October 25th & 26th





National Pollinators Month in June encourages the planting of pollinator gardens of native, non-invasive pollen and nectar-producing plants. When these gardens bloom, they attract bees, birds, bats, and other natural pollinators.

Each of these creatures makes the difference between valuable fruits and vegetables on our tables and going without. As we plant and encourage these natural habitats, we're putting food on the table, too. According to the National Wildlife Federation, pollinators are responsible for 1 of every 3 bites we take. That's a lot of pollinating! And many wildflowers provide more than just something pretty to look at. Their root systems prevent erosion and many of them provide flavorful and healthful teas and herbal remedies.

While we're planting native flowers and trees, we're also providing for our future. Pollinators such as the monarch butterfly and the honey bee have been in decline. While all the reasons have not been identified, increasing the available habitat does help! Encouraging the growth of natural habitats also attract pollinators.

HOW TO OBSERVE

Do you have a spot that could benefit from a pollinator garden? Well, get planting! Find out which are the best plants for your zone. Visit www.nwf.org to find out more. Honey, you won't regret it. Try these tips to get started on the right path to a pollinator garden:

- Choose bright flowers - The colors and scent attract pollinators to your garden.
- Plant for every season - While this means primarily to choose a variety of plants so you're attracting pollinators all year long, it also has another purpose. In the winter, these plants may be dormant, but they will provide a variety of seeds for pollinators to eat, bringing them back year after year.
- Welcome insects - Most of them are pollinators, too. Good bugs have the benefit of helping to keep pests at bay.
- Invite birds to your garden - Add birdhouses, provide seed or flowers they enjoy, supply a water source.

The National Wildlife Federation initiated National Pollinators Month as a way to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators. With pollinators on the decline, their initiative aims to increase native pollen and nectar-producing through the Million Garden Challenge.



Information from <https://consumerhort.org/june-is-pollinator-month>

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 selling, gifting or bartering bees, honeycombs, or used equipment.



The current inspection summary is available at:

<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program/inspection/>

For more information:

Apiary Program

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Reynoldsburg OH 43068

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Email: apiary@agri.ohio.gov