

# Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association



May 2018

srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Individual worker honey bees are unable to survive by themselves

## Upcoming Events

- **Monday, June 4th 6:30 pm**

Monthly meeting at the First United Methodist Church. 510 W Maple Street, Clyde. Peggy Garnes from OSBA will speak on "Sustainable Beekeeping Using Nucs". **We will be having a Potluck!** The club will provide chicken sandwiches and drinks. Please bring a covered dish to share.

- **Saturday, June 2nd**

Hands-on Field Day at QRC, Spencer Ohio [www.queenrightcolonies.com](http://www.queenrightcolonies.com)

- **Saturday, June 9th 9am-3pm**

Advanced Beginners Class, Tom Rathbun's barn— 4867 CR 175 Clyde  
**Must register, limited availability, see club website for details**

## Supering Methods

### Should a new super go on the top or on the bottom?

Putting a new super on top of existing supers is called "**top supering.**" Adding it above the brood box but below the other honey supers is called "**bottom supering.**" Which is best? While honey bees remain indifferent to the entire subject, beekeepers get atwist over the mere thought of doing it wrong. In truth, there is no wrong. Do what makes you happy.

Arguments for top supering go like this:

- It's faster. You just drop the new one on top.
- It's easier to see when you need to add another super; just take the top lid off and look!
- A filled super left just above the brood nest acts like a queen excluder. Because the queen wants to keep the brood nest together in one place, she will not cross a barrier of honey to lay eggs in a new location.

And arguments for bottom supering go like this:

- Bees begin working in the new super sooner if it is close to the brood nest.
- It reduces travel stain because the bees don't have to walk over capped honey to get to the new storage area. (Clean cappings are important for comb honey producers.)
- Bees expend less energy because they don't have to walk so far.

A paper published in the *American Bee Journal* by Jennifer Berry and Keith Delaplane (2000) found no statistically significant differences in honey yield between the two methods of supering. But still, the battle rages on.

<https://honeybeesuite.com/should-a-new-super-go-on-the-top-or-the-bottom/>



## Honey Bee Trivia

What will a newly emerged virgin queen do when she...

1. ...encounters another virgin queen?
2. ...discovers capped queen cells?

## Sweet Treats

Strawberry season is coming!

### Strawberry Honey Butter

1 pint strawberries (hulled)

3 tablespoons honey

2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice (or to taste)

3/4 cup unsalted butter (softened)



- In a food processor purée the strawberries and force the purée through a fine sieve into a saucepan.
- Add the honey and the lemon juice and boil the mixture, stirring, for 3 minutes, or until it is thickened.
- Let the strawberry mixture cool to room temperature.
- In a bowl cream together the butter and the strawberry mixture.
- Let the butter stand, covered, in a cool place for 1 hour to allow the flavors to develop.

<https://www.yummly.com/recipe/Strawberry-Honey-Butter-1750463>



Don't forget to register your hives with FieldWatch!

BeeCheck is a voluntary communication tool that enables beekeepers and pesticide applicators to work together to protect apiaries through use of the BeeCheck mapping program. It is not a substitute for any state regulatory requirements.

For more resources and information, please visit

<http://www.fieldwatch.com/>

The club will be putting together a fundraising calendar and we need YOUR help! Please submit pictures to Carol Mahl, [photosbymahl@yahoo.com](mailto:photosbymahl@yahoo.com). We will need images from all seasons to fill the calendar. Anything from your apiary with a beautiful sunset, to a worker bee landing on a flower, and everything in between!

Contact Carol with any questions on photo submissions. Thank you!

Don't forget to 'like' *Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association* on Facebook for updated news, pictures, articles and more!

