

# Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association



February 2019

srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org

## Upcoming Events

- **Monday, March 4th 6:30 pm**  
Monthly meeting at the First United Methodist Church.  
510 W Maple Street, Clyde.  
Queen Rearing part 2

### ***Pancake & sausage dinner!***

Please bring a dish to share

- **Monday, April 1st 7:00 pm**  
Monthly meeting  
Swarm prevention and control

- **Beginning Beekeepers Class**  
Saturday, April 6th and 13th 12:00 - 5:00 pm  
Tom's barn - 4865 CR 175, Clyde

Registration deadline is **March 15th**. Please visit our website and print the registration form under the "events & classes" tab.



## Meeting Highlights

On February 4th, our vice president Tom Rathbun gave a presentation on queen rearing. This was part 1 of 2, to be continued in March. He discussed the importance of each bee in the hive, the development of a queen, what is needed to make a queen, and the timing needed to produce the best queen possible. I found the topic very interesting and a great refresher on things we as beekeepers might not always think about.

Recap: Development of a queen

Egg—days 1-3 (day 1, the egg will be standing up in the cell)

Larva— days 4-9. The cell is capped on the 9th day!

Pupa— days 10-15

Adult Queen on the 16th day with emergence from the cell. The queen must be mated within the first 20 days of life, if not she will be a drone layer. Bad news!!

Thank you Tom for sharing your knowledge of queen rearing! We look forward to hearing more in March!

Membership dues are \$20 per family. These are due to Linda Miller at the March meeting!

Please visit our website and print the form under the "forms" tab and return to Linda.

## Honey Bee Trivia

**T or F:** When you purchase a 3 lb. package of bees, it is made up of a mated queen and her offspring.

**FALSE** A 3 lb package of bees consists of approximately 10,500 workers and a mated queen caged separately. Normally the workers are not related to the queen. On the day the packages are to be made up, work crews move to the apiaries where they shake bees into funnels to fill the packages. Packages often contain bees from 2 or more colonies. A second crew goes to the queen mating yard where they begin caging queens from the mating nucs. These caged queens are added to the packages back at the warehouse and are shipped the same day.

## Sweet Treats

### Sweet & Sour Cabbage

The perfect side dish for your St. Patty's day corned beef!

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 lg head of cabbage, shredded
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Pepper to taste
- 2 cups water
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 12-3 tbs all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup rice wine vinegar



- In a medium sized saucepan, add the shredded cabbage, salt, pepper, and water. Cover and bring to a boil.
- While cabbage is cooking, melt the butter in a skillet; add onion and cook until onion is translucent and tender. Add flour to the onion-butter mixture to create a roux. Set aside.
- When cabbage is tender, add honey and rice vinegar to the saucepan mixture and return to med-high heat, bringing it to a near boil. Add the roux to the cabbage mixture to thicken. Cook until desired consistency is achieved.
- <https://siouxhoney.com/recipe/sue-bee-honey-sweet-sour-cabbage/>

Bees die. But spring is the season of renewal. Finding a dead hive is discouraging, but please don't give up. Bees need us. So what do you do with "dead-outs" as they're commonly called.

### Dealing with Dead-Outs

First, remove the dead hive from the bee yard as soon as practical. Unprotected, any honey is an invitation for robbing by assorted wild critters and other hives. Moisture will also likely build up inside the hive, encouraging mold. Second, try to determine the cause, as that will define what you can do with what the deceased colony left behind.

### Clean Up

Dr. Roger Hoopingarner of Michigan State University, notes that most hives die from Varroa or starvation. Thus, reusing those resources (stores and drawn wax) is generally no problem. Brush off the dead bees, rap the frame the flat way to dislodge some stuck in the cells, and protect the wax from wax moths until they can be reused. These drawn frames are ideal for starting nuc colonies from strong colonies that survived, or for welcoming a new package. Don't worry about leaving a few bees behind in the frames, the new bees will clean them.

A colony that died from AFB requires burning it all, although the hive bodies and major components may be singed with a blow torch to destroy spores. With Nosema it may be easier to burn it all, or, depending upon the extent of the damage, treat with a cleaning solution.

Mold, unless it is black mold, may be wiped off the frames and capped honey. Give any hard surfaces a good scrubbing, with maybe a little extra salt in the mixture. Air them out well and then freeze, saving as much comb as much as possible. The comb, honey and frames may be used in the hive again. Bees will clean up a bit of mold, although by doing it for them they can focus their talents elsewhere, like pollination.

If it is black mold, remove and trash the foundation (or melt for other uses). Clean the frames thoroughly, air out, freeze, and reuse.

Wax moths may extensively damage the hive and comb, and it may be simpler to burn and start again. If the infestation is minor, remove larvae, clean out all webs, and freeze everything to kill all stages of the wax moth.

<https://www.kelleybees.com/blog/kelley-beekeeping/clean-hives-didnt-survive/>