

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association



June 2020

srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Upcoming Events

- **Monthly Meeting — Monday, June 1st 7:00 pm**
Cancelled due to recent events with the Coronavirus.
- **Monthly Meeting — Monday, July 6th 7:00 pm**
First United Methodist Church.
510 W Maple Street, Clyde.
Hoping we can meet again in July.



Message from the President

Hello SRVBA members,

Well it's sad to say it's June already, the 2020 year is half over. I hope everyone has stayed home enjoying their bees and staying healthy and safe.

Those that participated in the May Zoom meeting, did you enjoy it? We had 46 participants. My hat is off to Linda Miller for orchestrating this virtual activity and also a big thank you to Jamie Walters of Black Swamp Beekeepers Club for hosting the Zoom meeting.

For those who missed the Zoom meeting Jeannie Saum of BEEpothecary gave an outstanding presentation on products from the hive and how to make different tinctures for oral and topical use using propolis. You can view the entire PowerPoint presentation on the newly developed Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers, Youtube channel. Or visit Jeannie Saum's website to view her different products for sale at www.BEEpothecary.us

As I write this I'm sorry to say that we won't have a June meeting, with all that's still going on. I called the church in May and they advised that they're not looking to reopen the church until the end of June, and then they don't know what they're going to do for outside gatherings.

One of the problems is the church don't have a custodian and they don't know what the guidelines will be for cleaning after a large gathering. The church stated that they will have a trustee meeting coming up and they would address the issue then.

I also thought about changing the meeting date to a weekend day if we were allowed to meet outside, like at an open shelter house in a Park. I called the Clyde Parks Manager, Jim Mason, he stated that the parks are still closed for large gatherings, at least through the month of June.

So many large group activities are still being cancelled for the year, the Ohio State Fair, likely our county fairs, etc. I'm on the OSBA Fall Conference Committee slated for November of this year and it looks like it might be cancelled as an "in person" conference, and instead use a virtual conference streaming all the guest speakers live through an internet site.

As we approach the month of June I want to remind everyone of the importance of timely mite treatments. I've included information below that I hope you will find be helpful for your hive treatments.

Message from the President (continued)

IN THE HIVE

During the month of June it is a time that just about anything goes, please start doing Varroa destructor “mite” counts on your colonies, making splits is still a possibility, raising queens, swarm control and keep a watch on your honey supers to give them room for more delicious golden honey, but your mite count is the most important activity to do either by doing Alcohol or powdered sugar rolls.



I can't stress enough the importance of doing mite checks. Listed below are two videos that show techniques for doing a sugar roll and alcohol wash.

Please watch the videos and practice at least one of these examples:

<https://youtu.be/hos46Rj9-ag>. (alcohol wash)

<https://youtu.be/ZheLlafdmWE>. (powdered sugar)

The alcohol wash is a much more accurate count for Varroa, but it does kill your sample of bees.

The Sugar roll isn't as accurate but it does not kill your sample of bees.

Checking your drone cells for mites is another way of monitoring your Varroa existence.

There is several different techniques and chemicals used for treatment of mites, please do your own research and use the right treatment for your situation.

The following attachment (next page) are just some of the chemicals and treatment available. Please stay healthy, stay active and enjoy your bees!

Tom Rathbun









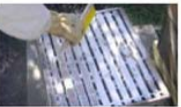
President SRVBA

Information from Gaiser Bee Co.— Post February 11, 2018

<https://www.facebook.com/gaiserbeeco/photos/we-get-a-lot-of-questions-about-varroa-mite-treatment-options-so-we-complied-som/934579016718391/>

We get a lot of questions about Varroa Mite treatment options so we complied some data into a chart to demonstrate treatment similarities and differences. Use this chart to help you choose the best treatment option for your apiary. [#beekeeping](#) [#beekeepingtips](#) [#varroamites](#) [#savethebees](#) [#gaiserbeeco](#) [#varroamitetreatments](#)

VARROA MITE TREATMENT COMPARISONS

Name	Image	Active Ingredient	Method of Application	Method of Spread	When to Apply (temp. F°)	Length of Treatment	Significant Features.
Apivar		Amitraz (synthetic)	One strip per 5 frames (2/ Brood Chamber)	Contact	Any Temp	6 wks (42 days)	- Leaves no residue - No resistance - Usage thought to contribute to Nosema infestation.
Apistan		tau-fluvalinate (synthetic pyrethroid)	One strip per 5 frames (2/ Brood Chamber)	Contact	Temps >50°	6 wks (42 days)	- Mite resistance confirmed. - Alternate therapy w/ apiguard.
CheckMite +		Coumaphos (Synthetic)	One strip per 5 frames (2/ Brood Chamber)	Contact		42-45d	- Mite resistance confirmed. - Also used for treatment of <i>Small Hive Beetles</i> .
Apiguard		Thymol (25%) (organic terpene)	Slow release gel matrix, Two 50g treatments. Close off screen bottom and vent holes.	Evaporation Contact Ingestion	60-105° Use smaller doses at higher temps.	4-6wks total 1st; 12-14d 2nd; 2-4wks	- Temp. dependent. - Reported to also be effective against <i>tracheal mites</i> and <i>chalkbrood</i>
ApiLife Var		Thymol, eucalyptol, menthol, camphor (organic)	Break wafer into 4 equal pieces and place in each top corner of brood box.	Evaporation	64-95°	3 treatment cycles. (replace at 7 and 14 days, leave final treatment in for 12d)	- Temp. dependent
<i>Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS)</i>		Formic Acid (organic)	Full Tx: 2 pads on top bar of single box or between 2 brood boxes, full width of hive body. ½ Tx: 1 pad every 2-6 wks	Evaporation	50-85° Caution with temps > 85-90°, brood and queen loss reported	7d tx. Hive entrance must be fully open. Cluster covering a minimum of 6 frames.	- Also useful for <i>tracheal mites</i> . - Allow a minimum of one month between applications for full tx.
<i>Oxalic Acid</i>		Oxalic Acid (organic)	Vapor: Use one Gram per Brood Chamber. Drizzle: 35 grams of oxalic acid crystals into one liter of 1:1 syrup. 5ml/frame seam or 50ml/colony.	Vapor (sublimation) Contact	Any Temp. Broodless Periods.	If used during times of brood will require X3 treatments 5-7d apart	- Vapor also believed to kill <i>tracheal mites</i> .
<i>HopGuard II (BetaTec)</i>		Potassium Salts of Hops Beta Acids (K-HBAs) (organic)	One strip per 5 frames (2/ Brood Chamber)	Contact	Any Temp. Broodless Periods.	30d tx. Repeat as necessary. Max 3 txs per season (6 strips).	- 2 or 3lb pkg: hang three (1/2) strips for 48hr. - Brood Box: 1 strip per 5 frame, remove after 30d
<i>Powdered Sugar (Confectioners' Sugar)</i>			Dusting between frame; 1 cup per brood box. Forced Air; At hive entrance	Contact; fine particles dislodge feet pads of mites	Any Temp. Broodless Periods	Weekly dusting useful for phoretic mites	- Also useful for package bees and/or swarms.

The information listed above is meant to be used as a guide and does not suggest or promote the use of one treatment over another. Local restrictions and regulations for individual treatments should be sought prior to any treatment.

No single type of treatment should be used repeatedly, as this can lead to resistance building up in the varroa mite population. Registered (legal) treatment types should be alternated wherever possible.

THIS CHART WAS MADE BY GAISER BEE CO.

WWW.GAISERBEECO.COM

Small Hive Beetle Prevention

Available at Ohio Department of Agriculture Website:

<https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program/shb>



The small hive beetle (SHB), *Aethina tumida* Murray, is an exotic invasive beetle that invades honey bee colonies, damaging the bees and honey comb. A native of South Africa, it was first identified in 1996 in South Carolina and is now found in most of the eastern United States. Like their cousins the picnic beetle and others in the Family Nitidulidae, SHB are fruit beetles, however the SHB has evolved to obtain nourishment and shelter in a honey bee colony, to the demise of the bees.

Prevention is the most important and effective tactic to keep SHB out of an apiary. Maintaining strong colonies with a high bee to comb ratio is crucial to having low numbers of SHB. This requires monthly monitoring of colonies and a sound pest and disease management strategy. Colonies weak from mites, disease or other stresses are prone to attack from SHB and may be unable to prevent the beetles from advancing to brood frames. Requeen or combine queenless colonies and treat for varroa mites to keep the number below the USDA threshold of 3 mites/100 bees.

Place colonies in full sun preferably away from other apiaries and at least a foot above the ground. SHB prefer shade while honey bees are much healthier and active in full sun. Use weed barriers, gravel or plastic tarp to keep plants and animals away from the hives. Dry soil and soil barriers hinder the SHB larvae from burrowing into the soil.

Only purchase packages, hives and nucleus colonies from producers who have been inspected and have a current Certificate of Health. Always check new packages/colonies before adding them to an apiary.

When working in the apiary, collect any propolis and burr comb that was removed. Do not throw or drop it near the yard because the scents attract the beetles.

Avoid using hive boxes with split top frames, frame spacers and plastic frames that have open slots. Do not place multiple boxes of "wet" (newly spun) frames on hives as the scent of honey attracts large numbers of beetles. Never stack multiple honey supers on a small colony. If stacking on stronger colonies, monitor them several times a month unless the colony has enough bees to cover all the frames.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture website contains additional information about small hive beetle management and life-cycle.

Classifieds

Packages & Nucs – Tom Rathbun/Southridge Apiary

Package honey bees for sale.
Please message Tom for more information.
Pickup only, Northern Ohio (Clyde, Ohio)

Overwintered Nucs & Ohio Queens

Linda Miller - oneoldbroadwithhives@gmail.com

Linda will have overwintered Ohio nucs
Probably in early May—\$160
Ohio Queens as soon as weather permits. \$35



Mann Lake Ltd. Honey Extractor for Sale

6/3 Frame Motorized Extractor – Purchased New – Lightly Used Fall of 2019 (Only)
110 Volt – Variable Speed – Model HH – 200
Stainless Steel Tank with Honey Gate
6 – Frame Shallow Frame Radial
3 – Frame – Medium or Deep Frame
Paid \$689.95 Make Offer
Contact [Tom Reineck](mailto:Tom.Reineck) or Call 419-680-6685 (Leave Message)
E-Mail: tmmtr74@gmail.com

Cherry City Honey Woodenware – Tami & Gary Wylie

Cherry City Honey stocks and sells new bee hive equipment from our barn. Due to our location in the Clyde-Bellevue area, it's approximately a one hour drive to the nearest bee equipment supply store. This drive is inconvenient, time consuming and expensive. Also, online orders from distant suppliers often require purchase of larger quantities to obtain fair pricing and shipping/freight rates for new equipment are expensive.

We stock bee equipment you'll most likely need. Our bee hive boxes and equipment is of the highest quality and comes already assembled and ready for you to paint before use. The equipment is available for pick-up only. We don't ship because the high shipping rates makes new bee equipment unreasonably costly. We can arrange for local delivery in the Bellevue-Clyde area. We accept cash or credit cards for payment.

Please compare our prices and consider us for your bee hive equipment needs.

Click on Link for Price List [Cherry City Farms 2020 Equipment Price List](#) (also attached to this newsletter email)