

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association



September 2020

Upcoming Events

Monthly Meeting — Monday, September 7th First United Methodist Church, Clyde, Ohio

- Cancelled due to meeting limitations associated with the State of Ohio Covid-19 response plan.

OSBA Live Webinar Training—FREE Sunday, September 13th 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

- Presented using the ZOOM app.
- Topic: “The Health Benefits and Value-Added Products of Hive Resources”

- Registration (RSVP) required at OSBA website:

<https://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/events/>

- Presenter: Jeannie Saum, B.S.Ed., M.Ed
- From: BEEpothecary



Webinar Training Description: This presentation will review the health benefits and medicinal uses of all the hive resources - Honey, Propolis, Pollen, Beeswax, Royal Jelly, and Bee Venom. Examples of the many value-added products that can be made from these resources will be covered, as well as how-to's for making several products.

Message from the President

Hello SRVBA members!

Here it is September, the year is flying by, and we haven't had an in-person meeting since the pancake sausage meeting in March. I think I speak for all of us that it's been a very difficult time for the club, and our own personal lives with the Covid pandemic.

I'm sorry to say that the September picnic had to be cancelled. I have always looked forward to the picnic. It's always a good time with all the great food that members share. Hopefully, we can really make up for our losses in 2021 with our meetings.

In the August Newsletter, I brought up that we as a club are in need of at least two Executive Officers for 2021, the Secretary and Treasurer positions need to be filled. The Treasurer position held by Linda Miller has been termed out according to the constitution and bylaws of the club. The Secretary position held by Angel Mitchell will also be open. Angel has stated that she doesn't have the personal time that is needed to continue with the position. Both Linda and Angel will be greatly missed as officers of the club. As for the rest of the positions I believe the current individuals will again seek re-election, but if anyone in the club wishes to run for any of the positions, please contact Director Tami Wylie at tamwylie@gmail.com.

Message from the President (continued)

Executive Officers:

President Tom Rathbun

Vice President Dr. Mike Stone

Treasurer (Open)

Secretary (Open)

Board of Directors:

Tami Wylie

Don Brown

Richard Brutsche

Something that the Executive Officers have been doing, we meet almost every Friday morning at someone's residence. We practice social distancing and discuss Beekeeping. We've been discussing having our own Zoom account so we can host meetings and speakers. To do so it's free for up to 100 participants but you're only given 40 minutes which they will cut your group off at that time, no leeway, no warning, just cut you off. To extend our airtime it would cost anywhere from \$150.00-\$500.00 a year, depending on the subscription we would choose. We then need someone to be techie enough to host our events. Here is the list of Zoom packages below:

We are leaning towards the "Pro" package:

The screenshot shows the Zoom Pricing page on a mobile device. The page is titled "Zoom Pricing" and features a navigation bar with "Product Information", "Reviews", "Pricing", and "Features". A red "Request a Demo" button is visible in the top right corner. The main content area displays three pricing packages: Basic (Free), Pro (\$14.99 per host per month), and Business (\$19.99 per host per month). Each package lists its features, such as "1 to 1 meetings: Unlimited" and "Group meeting duration: 40 minutes per meeting". A "Show More" link is provided for each package. To the right of the pricing packages, there are sections for "Highest-Rated Features" and "Lowest-Rated Features". The "Highest-Rated Features" section lists "Desktop Application - Video Conferencing" (2% above average), "Screen Sharing - Web Conferencing" (4% above average), and "Live Chat - Video Conferencing" (1% above average). The "Lowest-Rated Features" section lists "Whiteboarding - Video Conferencing" (1% above average), "Scheduling - Web Conferencing" (3% above average), and "Mobile - Web Conferencing" (3% above average). A purple "Access Grid® Report" button is located below these sections. At the bottom of the page, there is a cookie consent banner with "I accept" and "I do not accept" buttons. A chat bubble with the text "Hi there, welcome to G2!" is also visible in the bottom right corner.

Package	Price	Key Features
Basic	Free	1 to 1 meetings: Unlimited Number of meetings: Unlimited Group meeting duration: 40 minutes per meeting Video Conferencing Web Conferencing
Pro	\$14.99 per host per month	1 to 1 meetings: Unlimited Number of meetings: Unlimited Group meeting duration: Unlimited Video Conferencing Web Conferencing
Business	\$19.99 per host per month	10 or more host accounts 1 to 1 meetings: Unlimited Number of meetings: Unlimited Group meeting duration: Unlimited Video Conferencing Web Conferencing

Message from the President (continued)

If anyone wishes to attend the Friday morning coffee meetings please contact me at 419-603-1749. Again, we practice social distancing so please follow the guidelines.

On Monday August 3rd, SRVBA held a Zoom meeting with Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) traveling Speaker Program. Jamie Walters hosted the webinar and spoke on "Overwintering our hives." We had 31 participants for the hour and half presentation with lots of great questions from the participants at the end.

Ohio State Beekeepers Association has had a lot of free webinars with outstanding named presenters this past summer. Please monitor OSBA and the SRVBA websites and Facebook page for future dates and times of the webinars.

Website. <http://srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/>

Facebook. Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association

OSBA. www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/events/

On November 4th, OSBA will be hosting their annual Meeting/Conference by virtual event (Zoom). There are some outstanding speakers this year and a great schedule of events. Elections of officers as well as a constitutional update will be voted on. The cost of this annual meeting/conference is FREE. I'll have registration information in the our October Newsletter.

The conference/meeting will start with registration from 8:00-9:00 am and we will then have 45 minute speaker sessions, with 5 minute commercials between speakers, "How to" clips, voting for officers, amended constitution language, and President and Treasurer reports. The closing will be around 4:30 pm. What's going to be nice is you can sign in anytime during the day, if you're only interested in one speaker, or sign in for a part of it, sign out and be able to sign back in later in the day.

Here is a list of speakers:

Jerry Hayes

Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay

Reed Johnson

Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk

Barb Bloetscher

Rockford Trees

Ian Stepler

Dr. Mary Gardner

Message from the President (continued)

IN THE HIVE

September is a month for robbing and yellow jackets. Please don't leave honey frames exposed in the open as this will promote a robbing frenzy that will be hard to stop once it's started. A strong hive will rob out weaker colonies stealing and stripping them of all their honey stores.

Yellow jackets are a major pest of the honey bee in the fall. There are yellow jacket traps you can purchase or make that you use a sugary pop (no diet) as bait. The yellow jackets will find it and the honey bees will leave it alone. Place the yellow jacket trap close to your bee yard, but not next to your colonies. We have two club members, Jackie and Richard Kindred, who have made a yellow jacket trap that worked especially well for them last year. Here is a link to the trap they made.

<https://youtu.be/mYI5B6rYggE>



**Tom Rathbun
President SRVBA**

Hopefully by now you have begun to gear up and prepared your girls for the upcoming winter months. Combined your weak colonies, have treated for mites, and left plenty of food stores for the bees. Remember to leave as much as 100 pounds of food stores. If they're light on food, feed them a 2/1 ratio of sugar syrup (try to stay away from outside feeders such as boardman feeders because of attracting yellow jackets and robbing bees). Use of top feeders and frame feeders are best. Get your mouse guards installed. Flip your inner cover over so the notch is on the bottom.

Your honey supers should be off by the first of October by the latest. You will also start to notice that the girls are kicking the drones out of the hive. This is a normal behavior since the drones are only there to mate with Virgin Queens. The mated Queens will again lay Drone eggs in the Spring when the brood rearing season begins.

I'll mention in the October Newsletter "preparing sugar boards," what you can feed, and some recipes for winter patties.

So please stay safe and enjoy the bee yard!

Tom Rathbun

SRVBA President

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report is being provided in the newsletter this month since we haven't had a meeting, and the Treasurer normally reports the finances at each monthly meeting.

Financial Information for the September 2020 Newsletter

Term: January-August 2020

Expenses:

Affiliate Dues - \$236.25

Speakers - \$175.00 (we have not yet rec'd an invoice for Jamie Walters)

Methodist Church - \$60.00

Pancake Dinner - \$162.10

Sandusky County Fair Sponsorship (Rakay) - \$30.00

Total: \$663.35



Linda Miller
SRVBA Treasurer

Income:

Dues, Classes, Donations - \$2,574.00

From that we had to refund for the Beginner Class (cancelled due to Covid-19) - \$1150.00

Current Assets:

Savings - \$25.00

Petty Cash - \$50.00

Checking Acct. - \$4,333.00

Total as of 8/20/2020: \$4,408.00

Ohio's Country Journal—Ohio AG Net

Ohio Beekeeping

By Brianna Gwartz, OCJ field reporter May 14, 2020

<https://www.ocj.com/2020/05/ohio-beekeeping/>



Ron Zickefoose is the owner of Grandpa's Farm, a 100-colony apiary in Creston

Perhaps one of the most significant and overlooked species of farmed livestock in Ohio is the honeybee. Much like any other livestock species, honeybees require food, water, protection from the elements, parasite management and general health care. At the same time, these vital “livestock” are essential to the production of many fruit and vegetable crops in Ohio.

Ohio has a long history in the beekeeping industry. Two notable members of beekeeping history called Ohio their home. Amos Root, inventor of a beehive that allowed apiarists to harvest honey without destroying the hive, was from Medina. His business still exists there today. L.L. Langstroth, who lived in Oxford and Dayton for periods of his life, invented the Langstroth hive, a vertical hive that remains extremely popular.

Today career apiarists have been replaced by hobbyists and sideliners as the art of beekeeping has been more commercialized. Ron Zickefoose, owner of Grandpa's Farm, a 100-colony apiary in Creston has been beekeeping for over 20 years. Currently he serves as the president of the [Tri-County Beekeepers Association](#), which recently hosted their annual spring workshop.

“It's one of the most well-attended workshops in the country,” Zickefoose said. “We bring in about a dozen experts for a two-day seminar.”

Topics at this year's workshop ranged from beekeeping microbials to beekeeping's role in almond production. Nearly 900 attendees from five or more states gathered in Wooster for the event, which also included a honey baked goods contest.

Ohio's Country Journal—Ohio AG Net
Ohio Beekeeping (continued)

“I’ve always enjoyed the bees, they’re an amazingly designed creature. To learn about them and all their nuances just points to creation. Plus you kind of get to do something that’s a little odd,” Zickefoose said with a chuckle. “I would say beekeeping today is probably harder than it used to be. We have to be mindful of our hive placement because of pesticide usage and there’s also the Varroa mite, which causes a lot of problems.”

Zickefoose raises and sells queen honeybees and nucleus colonies to other beekeepers, as well as honey and wax. Additionally, Zickefoose is a hive inspector with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Hives are inspected for signs of disease and parasites, to ensure the health of Ohio’s honeybee population.

According to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 24,220 bee colonies were inspected in 2019 and nearly half had evidence of varroa mite infection. Varroa mites are parasites that host on honeybees. Not only are the mites problematic, but the viruses they carry are also devastating to bee colonies.

“It’s really a delicate balance in getting rid of Varroa mites,” Zickefoose said. “You’re essentially killing a bug that’s on a bug.”

Besides the use of chemicals to rid bees of varroa mites, there’s also the option to breed bees that are just naturally more resistant to Varroa. Reed Johnson, associate professor of entomology at the Ohio State University, shares that honeybees were one of the first animals that were bred for behavioral traits.

“It’s quite amazing really, when we began breeding honeybees is when the science community realized that there’s a genetic component to some behaviors,” Johnson said. “So we started to breed for bees that were more Varroa resistant because they were more hygienic, essentially they would groom the mites off of themselves.”

Resistance for disease and parasites aren’t the only thing beekeepers are breeding for either. Zickefoose has very specific qualities he is looking for in honeybees.

“Since we live here in Ohio, I want bees that are going to winter well and have good survival rates. Bees bred in warm temperature areas don’t do as well, obviously in our Ohio winters,” he said. “I also want docile bees. I recently bought some bees that were more resistant to the mites, but they were stinging me all the time.”



Ohio's Country Journal—Ohio AG Net
Ohio Beekeeping (continued)

There are six main breeds of honeybees in the United States, each with their own unique characteristics. Where some excel in overwintering ability, other breeds might excel in other areas such as pollination and honey production.

“I guess the bees I raise are somewhat mutts, they’re a combination of traits and characteristics I like,” Zickefoose said.

Essentially, crossbreeding and hybrid vigor apply to the honeybee world just as well as it does to other more traditional species of livestock. Besides the varroa mite, there are plenty of other things beekeepers have to be aware of to have successful hives. Pesticide use is a huge concern. Ohio was once filled with far more pasture and open grassy areas, perfect for honeybees. Today, many of those grassy areas have been converted into production land for corn and soybeans.

A recent study Johnson and his team are working on is the relationship between honey production and row crop production.

“We are especially interested in how honeybees are interacting with corn and soybean crops,” Johnson said. “Particularly, we are curious as to how soybean production and honey production go hand-in-hand.”

A fair amount of the honey being produced in Ohio can be traced back to soybeans.

“Soybeans are one of our most important pollinator crops in Ohio just based on sheer amount of acreage,” Johnson said. “They produce a nectar and the amount of nectar truthfully just depends on variety and things like that, so we are looking at those variables. We’ve also seen some studies that can suggest an increase of honeybees in the area also leads to an increase in soybean production, which would be a real win-win situation for both beekeepers and farmers.”

When it comes to production agriculture, there is one particular time of the year when farmers should try to be a bit more cognizant of honeybees in the area.

“Planting time is one of the most dangerous times for honeybees,” Johnson said. “When seed corn that has been treated with a neonicotinoid is being planted, some of that pesticide dust enters the air. That dust particle can be highly dangerous to honeybees flying by.”



Ohio Beekeeping (continued)

Moderate bee kill is not uncommon during planting season. Equipment manufacturers and seed companies are aware and have been actively working to minimize the effects of that chemical chipping off the seed. To prevent or minimize the loss even further, Johnson suggests farmers can clean out planters away from where bees would encounter the dust.

Recently, many non-profit organizations and even for-profit businesses have made a big push to “save the bees.” While Johnson suggests that the number of honeybees is driven largely by economics and the law of supply and demand, there are opportunities for everyone to support honeybees. Anyone who owns a yard or a space for a flower bed can encourage honeybee activity.

“Perhaps you leave the dandelions or clover in your yard grow a little while before mow them, since they are very attractive to bees,” Johnson said. “Planting flowers is always a great thing to do too, especially good pollinator plants.”

While many grains in Ohio are self-pollinators, orchards, pumpkin patches, blueberry patches, many vegetables and fruits rely on bees to grow. The USDA reports that one in three bites of food rely on a pollinator, most commonly a honeybee.

“If we didn’t have honeybees in Ohio, our diets would be pretty boring,” Johnson said.

Classifieds

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.

Price list next page.



2020 Price List Bee Equipment

Gary & Tami Wylie
 1000 County Road 312
 Bellevue OH 44811
 419-271-2720



10 Frame Equipment	Price
Vented Top Cover	\$25.00
Inner Cover	\$10.00
Deep Hive Body	\$20.00
Medium Super	\$17.00
Solid Bottom Board	\$20.00
Screened Bottom Board (with debris board)	\$16.00
Frames with Foundation (Acorn Plastic – heavier wax coated) (assembled)	\$3.15
1. Foundation Acorn Plastic (wax coated) Deep/Medium-OUT OF STOCK	\$1.75/\$1.50
2. Foundation Acorn Plastic (heavier wax coated) Deep/Medium	\$2.20/1.80
3. Foundation Quick Draw Yellow (Mann Lake Max Wax) - Deep/Medium	\$2.40/\$2.20
<u>Single Hive Kit</u> (1 screened bottom board, 1 deep box w/10 frames & foundations, 1 inner cover, 1 vented top cover, and 1 entrance reducer)	\$100.00
<u>Double Hive Kit</u> (1 screened bottom board, 2 deep box w/20 frames & foundations, 1 inner cover, 1 vented top cover, and 1 entrance reducer)	\$150.00
<u>Double Hive Kit with 2 Supers</u> (1 screened bottom board, 2 deep box w/20 frames & foundations, 1 inner cover, 1 vented top cover, 2 medium supers w/20 frames & foundations, and 1 entrance reducer)	\$240.00
Entrance Reducers	\$2.00
Queen Excluders (metal)	\$12.00
Top Feeder w/Float Rack	\$25.00
Boardman Feeder w/1 quart mason jar	\$10.00
Stainless Steel Smoker (wood bellows with temperature guard)	\$34.00
Hive Tool (J-Hook Style)	\$10.00
Wooden Bee Sweep Brush (horsehair)	\$10.00
Nuc Equipment	Price
Deep Hive Body	\$17.00
Screened Bottom Board (with debris board)	\$15.00
Migratory Cover	\$8.00
Top Feeder w/Float Rack	\$25.00
Steel Entrance Gate-Circular Disc (Diameter:12.5CM)	\$4.00