

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association



December 2020

Upcoming Events

Monthly Meeting — Tuesday, December 8th
Virtual meeting using ZOOM

NOTE THE CHANGE TO A TUESDAY MEETING

- All members are encouraged to participate since we're having annual election of officers.
- When: December 8th, 2020, 6:45pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)
- Please register in advance for the meeting. Members will receive an email for meeting registration.
- After registering for the meeting, you will receive a confirmation email containing information needed to join the meeting.



Message from the President

Hello SRVBA members!

Welcome to December. I hope everyone is staying healthy. Christmas is just a few weeks away and this is the first year since I've been a member of SRVBA that we haven't had a club Christmas party of any sort. I promise when things get better we'll celebrate in grand style. We all deserve it!

We will have elections of officers at our December 8th meeting, via ZOOM, starting at 7:00pm. Please try to attend the ZOOM meeting so you can vote. Doctor Stone will be sending out an invite via email for the ZOOM meeting as we get closer to the December 8th meeting.

Message from the President (continued)

These are the candidates we have to vote on for officers:

President.

Tom Rathbun

Vice President

Dr. Michael Stone

Secretary.

Linda Miller

Treasurer

Tami Wylie

Directors (pick three)

Chris Earnhart

Don Brown

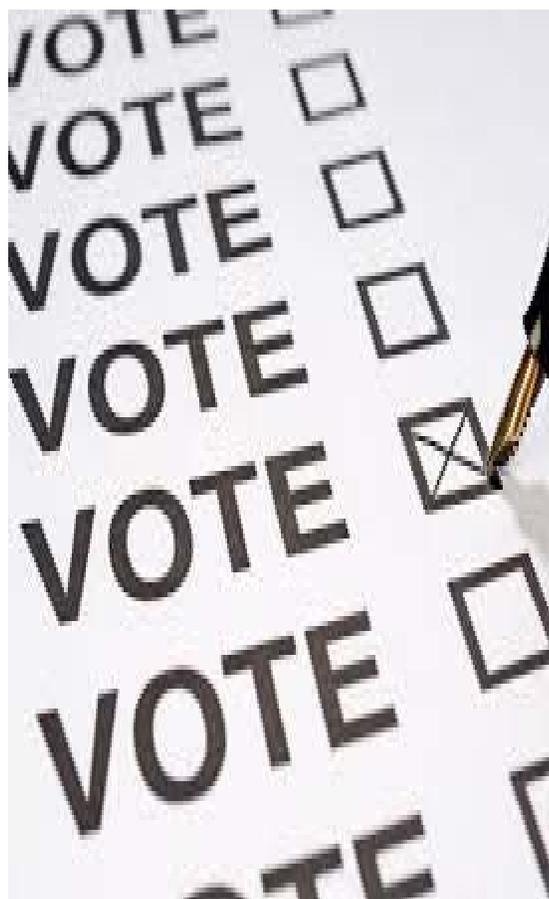
Jackie Kindred

Kim Root

Larry Baker

Richard Brutsche

Trent Baldulf



The above individuals were asked to write-up and submit a short bio of themselves to add to this newsletter. We thought this would help you better determine who you might want to vote for since some of the new members don't know the group, and some of the older members don't know the new members. We thought having the bios might help to get everyone acquainted and assist in making a decision about voting. **Submitted bios follow later in this newsletter.**

Like what was mentioned in our November Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association (SRVBA) Newsletter, and our last meeting, dues for 2021 will be waived if you had paid your dues for 2020. The Treasurer has a current list of all paid and delinquent members. If you have not paid your 2020 dues you will need to pay the dues of \$20.00 to the Treasurer by March 1, 2021.

OSBA News

The OSBA had their annual fall conference/meeting on November 7th. I hope everyone that logged in enjoyed the conference/meeting. There were almost 300 participants that stayed on all day from 800am-5:00pm. The presenters, commercials, and advertisements were all really informative and interesting.

Message from the President (continued)

Peggy Garnes, OSBA President, gave a detailed informative report on the progress OSBA has made this past year.

Another part of the OSBA fall conference/meeting is awards that are given to State of Ohio Beekeepers. These awards are, "Beekeeper Of The Year," Hall of Fame," "Lifetime Achievement," and "Propolis" awards. These awards are based off recommendations of local clubs' officer's nominations for outstanding beekeeping practices, achievements, and contributions.

This year the SRVBA nominated one club member for the OSBA "Beekeeper of Year" award. When looking into this award I found that no member of SRVBA had ever received this award nor has anyone ever been nominated for this award from SRVBA. This year I nominated one club member, and gave it Erie Basin Director Linda Miller to present it to OSBA. It's been my thoughts that this SRVBA member has been deserving of this award for a long time.

This year's OSBA "Beekeeper of the Year" award has been given to **SRVBA Member John Schick**. John was chosen over several other State of Ohio beekeepers for his long term commitment to beekeeping, club's organizational skills, mentoring of new beekeepers, and his knowledge of beekeeping. John has been a beekeeper for more than 20 plus years.

The award is currently being engraved for John, and it will be presented to John within the next few weeks by OSBA President Peggy Garnes, myself, and OSBA Erie Basin Director Linda Miller. Pictures will be taken for the SRVBA and OSBA newsletters. Congratulations to John, you deserve this honor!

Other news, on November 14th OSBA had their last Round Table Discussion for the 2020 year. The Discussion was held via Zoom with about 20 participants. Four topics were discussed, with some great input on; "Zoom meetings," "Beginner Beekeeping classes," Facebook development for the clubs," and "creating a survey via computer."

With this Covid-19 pandemic, it is unknown how long it's going to last and what 2021 will bring. It's good to be informed on how and what needs to be done via virtual meetings to keep the clubs informed and in contact with its members. You as members are more then welcome and encouraged to participate in these meetings. Keep a check on our Facebook site along with the OSBA website and Facebook page for upcoming dates, times and topics.

Stay healthy and enjoy your bees!

Tom Rathbun

SRVBA President

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Candidates Bios for Election

The following are brief bios submitted by candidates for our December Election:

President.

Tom Rathbun

My name is Tom Rathbun a current member of the SRVBA where I hold the office of President. I have helped the SRVBA with the Beginning Beekeepers classes each year and taught Advance Beekeeping, Queen Rearing, and directed a number of club meetings and outside presentations.

In 2012, Dana Stahlman, President of OSBA, appointed me as Director of Erie Basin. I held that position until 2018.

In 2020, I was appointed Vice President for the Ohio State Beekeepers Association by current President Peggy Garnes. In this position, I've been assigned to be the Chair of the Affiliate Program, work on the 2020 Conference/Annual Meeting Committee, and participate in the Round Table Discussion Zoom Program.

My passion is working with honeybees. Approximately 13 years ago, I obtained my first honeybee hive. Over the years, I've worked up to having anywhere from 25-40 bee colonies in my backyard, which sparked my interest in the Queen Rearing field. One summer I worked with Dana Stahlman and he taught me the fundamentals of Queen Rearing. Over a period of a couple years, and taking Queen Rearing classes taught by Dr. Joe Latshaw, and others, I began grafting from maybe 40 hives of true feral Ohio stock bees. My beeyard does not consist of any Georgia or California Bees, but bees I've caught in area swarm traps from a wooded lot. I usually raise anywhere from 50-100 Queens a year.

I feel that I have a strong passion for honeybees and believe that I will continue to be an asset to SRVBA.

Vice President

Dr. Michael Stone

My name is Michael Stone and I am currently the Vice President of the SRVBA. I currently have approximately 25 hives with my major honeybee goal as propagation of disease free, non-aggressive honeybees. I have had honeybees for approximately 4 years and also trained at Purdue University on Artificial Insemination of the honeybee.

I also go to the other end of the size spectrum and raise, show, and breed Belgian Draft horses. I have been doing this for 25 years with the Oak Haven prefix. I served on the Belgian National Registry Board of Directors for 15 years and President of the board for 5 years.

In my spare time I am a practicing veterinarian and owner of Oak Harbor Veterinary Hospital. I graduated from Oak Harbor High School in 1980, Bachelor of Science from The Ohio State University in 1984, and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1988.

Candidates Bios for Election (continued)

The following are brief bios submitted by the candidates for our December Election:

Secretary.

Linda Miller

My name is Linda Miller and I have been the Treasurer with the SRVBA for the last 3 years. I started keeping bees a couple years before retiring from the Clyde-Green Springs Schools. Like most of us, I started with the basic two hives as a hobby and to provide my family with fresh honey. Little did I know how addictive and fascinating the little honey bee is! Eight years and thirty hives later I can't imagine life without them!

Treasurer

Tami Wylie

My name is Tami Wylie and have been a Director with the SRVBA for the last 2 years. I've been a beekeeper and member of SRVBA for 5 years. Two years ago I began building my knowledge and practicing Queen Rearing. This past summer Tom Rathbun mentored me on his Queen Rearing techniques.

I am the owner of Cherry City Honey Farms and Apiary, which is my full-time job. I've been a full-time beekeeper 5 years. Prior to starting my apiary, I worked for 18 years at Bellevue City Schools (High School Secretary 13 years, 5 years EMIS Coordinator), and then worked 11 years as the Office Manager for Wylie Technical Services.

Director (Candidates)

Chris Earnhart

Good day fellow beekeepers! My name is Chris Earnhart and I am applying for a Director position with SRVBA. My wife Lorraine, and furry friend Sophie, have been raising bees and monarch butterflies for 5 years. We are not a large apiary, having only 4 hives, but this keeps us, family, and friends supplied with honey along with pollinating the area gardens and fruit trees.

I've been a member of SRVBA and a life member of the Ohio State Beekeeper's Association for about the same period. I enjoy the meetings and functions, meeting fellow beekeepers, and learning new beekeeping practices.

As a Director, I shall strive to maintain the educational value, the future of our association in these strange times, and stewardship in beekeeping.

Full supers!

Thanks, Chris

Candidates Bios for Election (continued)

The following are brief bios submitted by the candidates for our December Election:

Director (Candidates)

Kim Root

My name is Kim Root from the Bellevue/Flat Rock area. We, (including my husband, Nate) are finishing our fourth season of beekeeping. I am a retired Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) teacher/FCCLA Advisor. I have learned so much with what we call a beekeeping hobby. There is so much more to learn too. We totally enjoy the learning part whether it be reading, researching, or talking to other beekeepers to help us become better. We currently have five hives going into this winter.

Due to my background in FCS, this winter I want to focus on the food products of honey. I have always believed in substituting sugar with honey in recipes for a healthier product, but I'm looking forward to learning more about other products made from honey. As a Director, even though I'm still learning, I'll enjoy educating others about bees. I was disappointed when Covid-19 hit and the in-school presentations were canceled last year. If elected, I look forward to working with the officers to help continue the work that they do for SRVBA.

Larry Baker

My name is Larry Baker and I'm retired from National Machinery in Tiffin after 32 years, I have been very active in my community after moving to Tiffin 50 years ago. I have been a beekeeper for four years and have some expertise to offer others, but thoroughly enjoy beekeeping and furthering my knowledge in the field. I am sure there are many others in the club who could serve as a Director but I am willing to serve if elected. As Trump says "We will see what happens."

Message from the President (continued)

IN THE HIVE

The next few months there not a whole lot that needs to be done in your hives. By now, hives should be pretty much set for the winter. Mouse guards on, plenty of weight (food stores), hives wrapped, screen bottom board floor slid in, inner cover flipped over with the notch towards the bottom, and hives tipped forward so the moisture wicks out the notch and does not drip back down on the bees. If you have an Oxalic Vaporizer you can hit the hive one more time for treatment of Varroa Mites.

Honeybees can handle the cold, but wind blowing in on them can be very crucial with their survival. Some beekeepers will place windbreaks so the prevailing wind isn't blowing directly on the hive.



Tom Rathbun
President SRVBA

Some beekeepers will place straw bales around the hives, but keep in mind, mice will also enjoy the bales. I've seen others install plywood walls, but this can be expensive. Some beekeepers use roofing tar paper and wrap their hives. Just remember to leave an area for the bees to come and go as needed. One wrap product to use is called "Epilay," a breathable roofing material. Linda Miller used this product last year and she thinks contributed it to her high success rate. Linda was able to save what she used last year and has re-applied it again this year. Gary and Tami Wylie are also using Epilay this year in their Apiary.

I've used a product I purchased at Rural King called a "Silt Erosion Fence." Construction companies use it along roadways to help control wind damage when seeding grass and erosion. You can purchase a 50 foot roll of it with posts for about \$20.00. It's about 32 inches high. The Silt Erosion Fence is something to just help break the wind from blowing directly on the hives.

Another thing, you can always move your hives to a sheltered area out of the direct hit of the wind. If you do move them try to keep them in a sunny location for the sun's warmth.

There is a number of tricks you can use for wicking moisture from the hive; tilting them forward, flipping the inner cover, placing wicking (quilt) boxes, using vented outer covers, and placing a sugar board over top of your brood box. The sugar will absorb the moisture and feed them in an emergency if needed.

One of the last things that can be done is to take it upon yourselves to read all you can on Honeybees. You can also watch YouTube videos on techniques and what works for others, and ask club members questions. Please don't ever be afraid to ask a question. We've all been new beekeepers and we understand your questions. Believe me, I still ask questions.

Classifieds

Cherry City Honey – Tami & Gary Wylie

Hive Woodenware

Cherry City Honey stocks and sells new bee hive equipment. 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 consider us for your bee hive equipment needs. [Price list](#)