



Upcoming Events

Monthly Meeting — No January 2021 Meeting

Monthly Meeting—Monday, February 1, 2021 Virtual meeting using ZOOM

- When: February 1, 2021, 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.



Photo Courtesy of pxhere.com

Message from the President

Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas Holiday. I pray and hope everyone has a great and healthy new year.

As you will read more about it in this newsletter, you will find that one of our very own, John Schick, was nominated by the club's executive officers and he did receive the 2020 Ohio State Beekeeper Associations (OSBA) Beekeeper of the Year award.

It is a great honor that a beekeeper from our area received this award. The last time a Beekeeper from our area received this award was in 1983, when the award was presented to Melvin Myersholtz, from the Castalia area. Melvin was the owner of "Blue Hole Honey." It is noteworthy that this is the second time the award was presented to a beekeeper from our area. Congratulations John Schick, a well-deserved award.

I hope to continue to nominate a beekeeper from this area and club each year to receive the award. Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) will only pick someone if they're nominated by a club organization. I believe our club, SRVBA, has several beekeepers that are worthy of this award.

Message from the President (continued)

During the December Zoom meeting, we held elections of officers for 2021. The executive officers had no opposition for the office, but we had a great deal of interest in members wanting to become Directors of the club. This is exciting that new members have an interest in becoming an officer of SRVBA, and possibly moving up the ranks to another position in the near future. The election results for 2021 are as follows:

Executive Officers:

President:	Tom Rathbun	Email: tmr7212@yahoo.com 419-603-1749
Vice President:	Dr. Michael Stone	Email: drstone@oakhavenbelgians.com
Secretary:	Linda Miller	Email: oneoldbroadwithhives@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Tami Wylie	Email: tamwylie@gmail.com

Directors:

Jackie Kindred	Email: kindredjackie@gmail.com
Chris Earnhart	Email: earnhart_chris@aol.com
Kim Root	Email: kimmie_59@hotmail.com

Thank you for taking the initiative and showing interest in running for a position within SRVBA. I hope we can all work together and make the club a fun and informative place to be a member.

I wanted to thank Angel Mitchell, Don Brown, and Rich Brutsche for their time and contribution to the club as officers; they were all great officers.

We won't be having a January 2021 members meeting. Typically, we usually set the month of January aside for the Executive Officers and Directors to meet to plan the upcoming year's club activities. So our next all members meeting will be in February 2021.

The Executive Officers and Directors will make a budget for the year's expenditures, plan upcoming monthly meetings and activities with presenters, and plan for a beginners bee class, either as a virtual or in-person participation. I hope we can plan some monthly demonstrations on such topics as hive inspections, nuc building, queen rearing, wax rendering, building sugar boards, etc. If you have a topic that might be interesting, please let one of us know, as well as any speakers or topics for Zoom meetings that are an interest.

Stay healthy and enjoy your bees!

Tom Rathbun

Message from the President (continued)

IN THE HIVE

The month of January and February are difficult months to talk about and mention what we should be doing in our hives. By now the bees are clustered in the hive, hopefully keeping the Queen and what little brood they have warm. We the beekeepers really don't need to do anything with the bees, except to keep the front entrance clean of dead bees so bees are able to make cleansing flights when the weather is permitting, check the weight of the beehive to confirm it's heavy food stores, and check your sugar boards to see if the bees are up in them. If not, that's not a bad thing, since there might be plenty of food right where they're at.



Tom Rathbun
President SRVBA

If the bees are in the sugar boards please pay attention to them so they don't run out of food, sugar, that you are providing them.

The most important activity is to start thinking and planning what your goals are for 2021. What are your expectations for your bee yard for the upcoming season? How big do you want to grow? Start planning for your next season. Do you want to start raising Queens, building Nucs, setting swarm traps, or building up your honey harvest production. Lots to think about!

Stay safe and enjoy the bee yard!

Tom Rathbun

SRVBA President

EXCELLENCE



Presentation of “2020 Ohio State Beekeeper of the Year” Award: Tom Rathbun (Vice President OSBA & President SRVBA), Dr. Michael Stone (Vice President SRVBA), John Schick (2020 Ohio State Beekeeper of the Year Award Recipient), Linda Miller (Director OSBA & Treasurer SRVBA)

A member of the Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association (SRVBA) was recently selected to receive the 2020 Ohio State Beekeeper of the Year Award. John Schick, of Norwalk, was recently presented with the award. “I was surprised, the award was completely unexpected,” said John when asked how he felt about being selected for the Ohio State Beekeeper of the Year award.

The prestigious Ohio State Beekeeper of the Year Award is awarded by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) to recognize those beekeepers who go above and beyond providing support and dedication to other beekeepers in Ohio. Those selected for the award is looked upon for their leadership, positive attitude, kindness, and inspiration they provided toward fellow beekeepers locally, regionally, and statewide.

John has been around honeybees and bee hives most of his life. John’s father, a farmer, kept hives at the farm and sold cut-combed honey. After John’s father became ill in 1983, John took on the leading role of helping his father and caring for the bee hives.

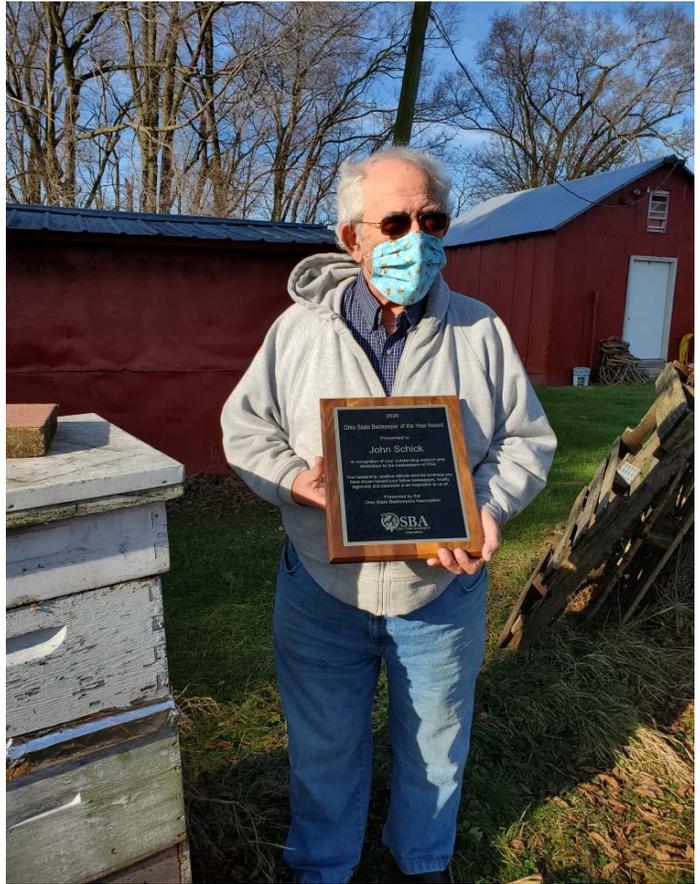
During this interview, John reflected on his memory of his father sitting on the tailgate of his truck while providing John instruction related to caring for the honeybees. John’s father provided John his initial beekeeping guidance and instruction in what would become a life-long passion of being a beekeeper. John has been a beekeeper for 37 years.

EXCELLENCE (continued)

Everyone in the area seems to know John! Over the past 25 years, John has become a regular at countless farm markets, county fairs, craft shows, education forums and other events. His friendly smile, outgoing personality, and willingness to answer beekeeping questions makes him unforgettable. John makes available to customers most everything provided by the honeybees; honey, beeswax, candles and bee pollen.

John has been a member of the Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association (SRVBA) for many years. During this time, John served the Association in various leadership positions including President and Vice President. John has also been a mentor to numerous area beekeepers.

John promotes SRVBA activities as a great way for beekeepers to share and exchange information on lots of topics. “The meetings are a great place to share opinions and make friends. The Association is a great group of people.” John said during this interview, while discussing the SRVBA activities and the challenges beekeepers encounter getting started in beekeeping.



John Schick, 2020 Ohio State Beekeeper of the Year

For many years, John has supported SRVBA honeybee and beekeeping educational activities by assisting with beginning beekeeper classes, presenting at local schools, clubs, and other educational venues. John likes to help other beekeepers and is more than willing to answer questions and share his beekeeping knowledge and experience.

John has a strong belief in helping others. Learning and helping others learn has been a life-long vocation for John, since he was a school teacher for over 30 years. John taught science and later taught computer classes when computer technology began to emerge. John also supported local schools with transition to computer technology and also repaired computers.

When asked if he had any advice for new beekeepers overwintering bees for the first time, John said, “Don’t give up or take personally if you have hive die-outs. Start again next year. Get a few hives, compare year to year, learn. Get a mentor, second set of hands-second set of eyes. Just don’t get discouraged.”

The SRVBA membership sends our sincere congratulations to John Schick for receiving this prestigious award!

Beekeeping Information

Below is the list of websites discussed at the December SRVBA meeting. If you recall, our members discussed good sources of beekeeping information to review during the winter months. These sources are all "cold weather" beekeepers and should provide helpful information.

Sources

Meghan Milbrath - Michigan, MSU

<http://www.sandhillbees.com/> (Can also find many on YouTube)

Randy Oliver - California

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/> (Can also find many on YouTube)

A California beekeeper with a lot of good scientific research

Reed Johnson - OSU

<https://u.osu.edu/beelab/where-are-honey-bees-foraging-in-ohio-with-dr-reed-johnson/> (Can also find many on YouTube)

Ian Stepler - Manitoba, Canada

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkQVs6-xm3mVNdwW4Zt8McQ> (Lots of interesting and informative videos)

National Honey Board

<https://www.honey.com/the-bees> (Can also find many on YouTube, including some under 5 min)

National Honey Show

<https://www.youtube.com/c/NationalHoneyShowUK/videos> (Lots of educational videos from various speakers)

JC's Bees - Central Ohio

<https://www.youtube.com/c/JasonChrismanBees> (Jason has a lot of helpful videos, easy to understand)

Michael Palmer - Vermont - French Hill Apiaries

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRc7LI3dPhX65DbfXSDyFGQ/videos> (Notable speaker for queen rearing, 4 frame nucs, and "brood bombs")

Two Bees In a Pod Cast

<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honey-bee/podcast/> (Dr. Jamie Ellis and Guests - Great topics, easy listening)

Hongmei Li-Byarly - Central State University (Suggest using Google)

Classifieds

Cherry City Honey Farms & Apiary – Tami & Gary Wylie

Bee Supplies and Equipment

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.