



## Upcoming Events

### **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.
- Topic: Splits and Nucs
- Presenter: Peggy Garnes, OSBA President



Photo Courtesy of freeimages.com

## Message from the President

Happy February Everyone!

We now have a vaccine but things aren't really changing yet with this virus. Hopefully, things will be changing and we can start to meet again, in-person. Until we can safely meet again, please stay safe and healthy.

Please keep Jim Tansey's family in your thoughts and prayers. Jim passed away over the weekend after having health issues. Jim's services will be at the Riddle Funeral Home in Vermillion. A date has not yet been set for Jim's services. Jim was a great friend and member of our club who was always willing to share his skills. He will be missed!

On Sunday January 17, the Executive Board met for a planning meeting to plan and discuss activities and a the budget for 2021. The meeting was attended by the four Executive Officers and two of the new Directors. The budget for 2021 was left the same as the budget for 2020, since we hadn't used the funds budgeted for 2020.

The Officers discussed 2021 monthly meeting activities. The following activities were outlined for the year:

**January** - No monthly meeting. The Executive Board and Directors had a 2021 planning meeting.

**February** - Monthly meeting: Peggy Garnes, OSBA President, will present the topic, Splits and Nucs, via Zoom.

# Message from the President

## (continued)

**March** - Monthly meeting: Jackie Kindred, SRVBA Director, will present the topic, Pollinator Plants, via Zoom.

**April** - Monthly meeting: possible presenter, Barb Bloethcher, Ohio Department of Agriculture, via Zoom.

- We are tentatively planning an in-person Beginners Beekeeping Class for Saturday April 10, 2021. The class will be limited to 10 people with a limit of one person per registration. Planning for the class assumed it will be safe to do so, Covid-19 will improve, and the State of Ohio allows attendance at the class. We are inviting last year's class enrollees first, since their class was cancelled due to Covid-19. If we have a large interest in the first class we'll likely offer a second class.

**May** - Planning a field day outside. The focus will be products of the hive; wax rendering, assembling bee equipment, honey products, etc. This will be held at Gary and Tami Wylie's bee yard. The field day will be conducted outside. Social distancing and wearing a mask will be required.

**June** - Planning a field day outside with Nina Bagley, OSBA Director "Heart of Ohio" Region. Topic: "On the Spot" (OTS) Queen Rearing. The field day will be held at Gary and Tami Wylie's bee yard. Wearing protective beekeeping gear, social distancing and wearing a mask will be required.

**July** - To be announced.

**August** - Planning a demonstration outside. The focus of demos will be varroa mites. Activities will include live demos on alcohol wash, chemicals, and oxalic acid treatments. The demonstration will be held at Gary and Tami Wylie's bee yard. Wearing protective beekeeping gear, social distancing and wearing a mask will be required.

**September** - We're hoping to have a fall Picnic and include a honey extraction demonstration.

**October** - Monthly meeting: open topic to include "closing up your hives for the winter," via Zoom. We'd like to include passing out empty honey bear containers for the local Food Pantries (if we're meeting in-person).

**November** - Will attempt to get an OSBA "traveling speaker" via Zoom or in-person.

**December** - We're hoping to have a Christmas party (depends on State's recovery from Covid-19).

The Board is attempting to return to a normal schedule, This will all depend on the State's Covid-19 regulations and recovery. We might have to cancel some of these activities, but we will attempt to make this year interesting for our members.

# Message from the President (continued)

## OSBA NEWS

I wanted to update all of you on the Affiliate Program and the status of the renewals. As you may be aware, a number of Affiliates, as well as Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA), have received an automatic notification from the IRS regarding the loss of tax exempt status, for failure to return the required 990 tax form. For the past several years, OSBA has contracted with a private accounting firm to file the required 990 forms on behalf of OSBA and the Affiliate Group..

It appears that the IRS has not been able to link the Groups' 990 tax forms with the central OSBA EIN group number. OSBA has filed a letter with the IRS listing all of the Affiliates including the OSBA Group ID number and the form that they require. In addition, the accounting firm that completed and returned both 990's, (OSBA and OSBA Group) has submitted a letter to the IRS to resolve the issue.

On January 4th, 2021, while still working on this issue, Peggy Garnes, President of OSBA, was able to make contact with the IRS and spoke with several of their representatives to resolve this issue. The short explanation to the problem was that the EIN being used is not recognized as tax exempt status, starting with the 2017 filing of the 990 forms. We have no idea why this EIN number was being used by the accounting firm who filed the 990's, and not the EIN number and group number in our determination letter from the IRS.

The contracted accounting firm has been requested and they have agreed to amend the 990 filings for the years 2017, 2018, and 2019 using the correct EIN central number with the group ruling. Once the IRS receives and processes the amended filings, and OSBA can verify the acceptance, OSBA will send the Affiliates a copy of the same and post the correct filings on the website. OSBA will be sending out the renewal letters soon.

Affiliates will continue to be covered under our existing insurance policy that runs through 2023 and is paid annually. We will begin the 2021 renewal process for the Affiliate program and will need all 2020 fiscal reports from Affiliate Clubs, submitted by the end of February.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact:

Tom Rathbun, Vice-President@ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Rod Pritchard, Treasurer@ohiostatebeekeepers.org.

Sincerely,

Tom Rathbun, Vice-President

Ohio State Beekeepers Association

# Message from the President (continued)

## OSBA NEWS (continued)

On January 17, Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) held their monthly Board meeting. In doing so we presented a motion for all fees and dues for the Affiliate Renewal Program to be waived for the year 2021. The motion was voted on and passed by the Officers and Board of Directors.

The Board felt that with financial pressure of the pandemic, and the problems a few clubs have had with the IRS and their non-profit status, that OSBA would waive the renewal fees and dues for this year involving the Affiliate Program. So please still fill out the Affiliate Renewal form and have it returned back to me by February 28, 2021 minus the renewal fees and dues.

OSBA apologizes for the confusion and concerns your clubs have had with the Affiliate Program. We feel that the problems we've had are now being corrected and are behind us and we can move forward with this program.

Thank you and stay safe

Tom Rathbun

Vice-President OSBA

Affiliate Program Chair

## Other OSBA NEWS

**“Podcast”** Other news with OSBA, OSBA will soon be starting their own Podcast – “Bee Here Now” – Stay tuned for more updates! For those beekeepers that like to listen to podcasts while in the apiary, we have you covered. You won't want to miss the “Live Q&A” session that allows you to call in and get answers from seasoned beekeepers and guest speakers.

**“Round Table”**. Four times a year OSBA has a Zoom “Round Table Discussion” with myself and Peggy Garnes, President of OSBA. These discussions are on a Saturday morning where four different topics are discussed and talked about. They are usually 2 hours in length. If you are interested, please contact me and I can forward the next date and time and make sure you receive an invite to the Zoom Registration.

**“Webinars”**. The Live Webinar Training is hosted on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 7:00 pm and is FREE to attend. We are using Zoom to conference up to 500 available spots per presentation. Please see the directions on the OSBA website on how to; register, log in, participate, and find a recorded session.

# Message from the President (continued)

## Other OSBA NEWS (continued)

### Who will be presenting?

**Jan 10 – Mr. Matther Mulica – Honeybee Health Coalition**

**Jan 24 – Mrs. Jennifer Berry – Oxalic Treatment**

**Feb 14 – Mr. Dana Stahlman – Stress Factors Affecting Honey Bee Survival**

**Feb 28 – Dr. Jamie Ellis – Recognizing and Addressing Queen Events**

**Mar 14 –**

**Mar 28 – Mr. Bob Walters/ Mr. Curt Hadley – Field Watch**

**Apr 11 –**

**Apr 25 –**

**May 9 –**

**May 23 –**

**June 13 –**

**June 27 –**

Please check with the Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) website for more information on the webinars and sign up registration information at [www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org)

Please stay safe!

Tom Rathbun

SRVBA President

# Message from the President (continued)

## IN THE HIVE

There really isn't much to do in your hives this time of the year except to keep the front entrance open and free of dead bees, keep watch on food stores, and lift the back of the hives, to see how heavy are they.

If hives are light you will need to start feeding. You can feed them sugar cakes, dry sugar, and fondant patties, ( no syrup). Only open hives on a bright sunny 40°+ day, and only long enough to see into the hive, not to inspect. If the bees are all at the top, it could mean that they are low on food stores. You might want to put a sugar board on them or get some supplement feed for them.



**Tom Rathbun**  
**SRVBA President**

In February the Queen will start to gear up for brood laying. If you give them a pollen substitute, please keep an eye on it and keep it available, since they will use this substitute to feed the brood. You don't want them to starve by letting them run out of the pollen substitute.

The last thing to think about, where do you want to be this season with your bees. Do you want to expand, or cut back? Maybe start something new in beekeeping...such as making Nucs, Swarm traps, raising queens, or collecting wax and propolis for products of the hive like salves and lip balms. That's what's fun about beekeeping, there are so many different avenues you can take to keep this great hobby interesting. Don't forget to expand your beekeeping knowledge by reading what you can find.

Stay safe and enjoy the bee yard!

Tom Rathbun

SRVBA President

# News Article

## Asian Giant Hornet: The Invasion Unfolds

Taken From: American Bee Journal—Science Insider

Written By: Alyson McAfee (excerpt) January 1, 2021

<https://americanbeejournal.com/asian-giant-hornet-the-invasion-unfolds/>

**First spotted in North America in 2019, increased sightings raise concern that this hornet may be here to stay.**



On October 29, 2020, the cameras rolled as the first Asian giant hornet nest identified in the U.S. was carefully extracted from a hollowed-out tree by members of the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). The team painstakingly sampled the anesthetized hornets and pieces of papery brood comb from the tree cavity, which was found just outside Blaine, WA.

But the story of Asian giant hornet dispersal begins much earlier. In a time almost unthinkable now, before “murder hornets” made worldwide headlines, before COVID-19 swept across the globe, even before Obama left the White House, this pest was on Sven-Erik Spichiger’s radar. “Forty-two people died in southern China from attacks by Asian giant hornet in 2013,” says Spichiger, as he recalls watching news reports on CNN. “Any time you’re an entomologist and something makes international news, you look into the species that did it.”

He quickly realized that this hornet was also a significant threat to honey bees, and that the habitat in many parts of North America was suitable for it to live in. He started to anticipate an eventual invasion, and says it’s “no surprise” that it ended up here. Six years later, he was proven right when beekeepers in Nanaimo, British Columbia, found the first nest in North America.

With guidance from BC’s provincial apiculturist, Paul vanWestendorp, and another government entomologist, Conrad Berube, the Nanaimo beekeepers tracked down and eradicated the nest with nothing more than household equipment (for beekeepers) and a bit of bravery. [See “Giant Alien Insect Invasion Averted,” by Conrad Berube, February 2020 ABJ.] The lead eradicator was stung several times in the process and was said to be in bed the next day with flu-like symptoms.

That nest was found just meters from a pedestrian walkway in Robin’s Park, but the extraction event was covered only briefly by local news stations. The beekeepers’ YouTube video, posted a few months later, attracted only a few thousand views.

In September and October 2019, further sightings were reported in Blaine, WA. In November, one was confirmed in White Rock, BC. In December, another Asian giant hornet was identified in Blaine feeding at a hummingbird feeder, and government entomologists in BC and WA knew they would be in for a busy 2020.

I always expected we might encounter this,” says Spichiger in a presentation for the Washington State Beekeeping Association, “but never in my wildest dreams did I think we would encounter this in December, of any year.”

## News Article (continued)

### Asian Giant Hornet: The Invasion Unfolds—Page 2

That's because the Asian giant hornet's life cycle is similar to that of bumble bees: They establish nests headed by a queen with a few hundred workers, and in the late summer they begin rearing reproductive individuals. Mated queens overwinter alone, emerging in the spring to found new nests. By winter, workers and drones should have been long dead and queens in a dormant slumber, so the December sighting was a surprise for everyone.

For reasons that are still unclear, it is not until late summer and early fall that the Asian giant hornet begins to ravage beehives. These brutal attacks, which are why beekeepers in northern Washington and southern BC were on high alert last fall, are divided into three phases: hunting, slaughter, and occupation.

In the hunting phase, hornet workers visit apiaries and catch honey bees one by one, preparing them into meat balls and bringing them back to the nest. In the slaughter phase, the hornets somehow choose a specific hive upon which to launch a concerted attack, during which a handful of hornets linger at the hive entrance, killing any bee that emerges, tossing their bodies on the ground. A hive can be decimated within hours or days by this method.

The slaughtering hornets stay at their post until the job is done or until dusk. They become hungry, and their nestmates come to their aid with provisions. Ironically, the hornets may starve during a prolonged slaughter, despite the masses of dead bees around them and a hive full of honey just out of reach. Estimates from Japan state that 20-30 hornets can typically kill 5,000-25,000 honey bees within 1-6 hours.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, once most of the bees have been killed, the hornets occupy the hive and are quick to defend their conquest. They preferentially extract pupae, then larvae, then the dead adult bees, bringing their meatballs back to the nest to feed their own brood. Some beekeepers in Blaine have, unfortunately, witnessed the aftermath of these attacks first-hand. Perhaps "murder hornet" is an appropriate name after all.

Early on, it was clear that this was a hardy, ferocious insect and we should expect multiple nests to eventually be discovered. Some skeptics (optimists?) suggested that the 2019 sightings could have all originated from the same mother nest, but this postulation was lacking knowledge of Pacific Northwest geography. Nanaimo is about 80 kilometers (~50 miles), as the hornet flies, from White Rock, and is separated by the mighty Strait of Georgia.

The early sightings in Whatcom County and Vancouver's Lower Mainland suggest there were at least three nests in 2019, not including the one that was destroyed in Nanaimo. In 2020, sightings and sampling indicate there are six or seven nests — that we know about.

Dr. Gard Otis, a retired professor at the University of Guelph School of Environmental Sciences, stresses that although multiple nests have been established, it still isn't clear if the population of hornets will be self-sustaining. "*Vespa mandarinia* [Asian giant hornet] queens usually mate with just one male," says Otis, "so immigrant queens arriving in North America individually do not have a lot of genetic diversity."

## News Article (continued)

### Asian Giant Hornet: The Invasion Unfolds—Page 3

This is important because, since North America is an entirely new region, it is unlikely for the hornet to be perfectly adapted to our conditions. Yes, the climate is within its range of tolerance, but there will probably be at least some new challenges to which the hornet will need to adapt. And having low genetic diversity in the initial population means it would be less likely for the hornet to thrive.

“We need to know how genetically diverse the hornets collected in 2020 are,” says Otis, as this would tell us how much inbreeding is going on in the landed population. “We have to assume that the hornets that have arrived in North America were not perfectly pre-adapted to their new environment and that they are experiencing a possibly severe genetic bottleneck.”

Without knowing how diverse the landed queens are, how far queens and drones may travel from their nest to mate, and how serious the consequences of inbreeding are for colony fitness, Otis says he’s “not convinced” that the North American population will be self-sustaining. But he adds, “We do not want this species to become established, and should take efforts to prevent that. We needed to do everything we could this year to try to delineate their distribution and to try to reduce the population.”

Although the early detection events were covered by local news outlets, for most of us the news really broke with the New York Times article in May — the second one they published on the subject — naming this invader as the ....(end of excerpt)

# 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. [2021 Price List](#)